8/8/75

Gene C. Bragg
PO Box 965
Elyria Ohio 44035

Dear Mr Bragg,

Thanks for the Book Order which has been shipped, the Copper Foil and your list of your Collection.

Yes I still have the Manin for Half Cent it Comes + goes and I like everyone else I know Wants to Complete the Series, but this isn't that there.

I note that the 1804 is listed on your Sheet that you Breed down #6 + #7 By the state. None are of Course many other die states or other Varieties. Do you Plan to get them also?

If you ever get to the Washington DC area let me know as I'd enjoy spending a few Hours talking

Sincerely
Roger S. Cohen

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44035
8/1/75

U.S. HALF CENTS

	C	G	OTH	COND	Dup		C	G	OTH	COND	Dup		C	G	OTH	COND	Dup		C	G	OTH	COND
1793	1	4				1803	1	2	[illegible]	15	✓	1806	1	1	[illegible]	20	✓	1849	1	3	[illegible]	[illegible]
	2	3	[illegible]	15			2	4					2	2				1850	1	1		[illegible]
	3	1					3	3	REV PERF	6			3	1/2				1851	1	1		[illegible]
	4	2					3	3	REV ERR				4	2	[illegible]	20	✓	1853	1	1		[illegible]
1794	1a	9					4	1				1807	1	1	[illegible]	20		1854	1	1		[illegible]
	1b	9S				1804	1	6	REV PERF			1808	1	1/1				1855	1	1	[illegible]	[illegible]
	2a	5	[illegible]	[illegible]			1	6	REV ERR	10			2	1		15	✓	1856	1	1		[illegible]
	2b	5L					2	10/6					3	2	[illegible]	15	✓	1857	1	1		[illegible]
	3a	7S					4	10				1809	1	3/1								
	3b	7L					5	11		12	✓		2	3	[illegible]	10/12	✓	1837			TOKEN	
	4a	4S					6	8	REV PERF				3	4	[illegible]	20	✓	1797	1	4	[illegible]	[illegible]
	4b	4L					6	8	REV ERR 1	12			4	1	[illegible]	12		1839	5	5	[illegible]	[illegible]
	5	8					6	8	2				5	5		15/20	✓	1844	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	15
	6	6					6	8	3	15			6	2	[illegible]	12	✓	1845	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
	7	2					6	8	4			1810	1	1	[illegible]	8		1852			[illegible]	20
	8	3					6	8	5			1811	1	2	OBV PERF	7		1855	1	1	[illegible] STRIKE	[illegible]
	9	1	[illegible] STRIKE	12			6	8	6	15	✓		1	2	2 STR ERR			1862	2	1	[illegible]	[illegible]
1795	1	1	[illegible]				6	8	7				1	2	4 STR ERR			1863	3	3	[illegible]	6
	2a	3	[illegible]	7			6	8	8	20			2	1		8	✓	1857	1	1	[illegible]	20
	2b	8					7	9	REV PERF			1825	1	2	[illegible]	15	✓	1865	1	2	[illegible]	15
	3	7					7	9	REV ERR 1	12			2	1	[illegible]	30	✓					
	4	4					7	9	2			1826	1	1		30	✓					
	5a	6					7	9	3				2	2	OBV PERF	15	✓					
	5b	6K					7	9	4				2	2	2 STR ERR							
	6a	5	SL 6/2	7/10			7	9	5			1828	1	2	[illegible]	20	✓					
	6b	5K					8	7	[illegible]	7			2	3		15	✓					
1796	1	2					9	5	OBV PERF				3	1		40	✓					
	2	1					9	5	RTY ERR	8	✓	1829	1	1	[illegible]	15	✓					
1797	1	4	[illegible]	12			10	4	[illegible]	40	✓	1831	1	1								
	2	3	[illegible] STRIKE	5/2			11	1	[illegible]	12	✓	1832	1	2		20	✓					
	3a	2					12	3		30			2	1		40	✓					
	3b	1					13	2	[illegible]	30	✓		3	3		15						
	3c	2M				1805	1	1	[illegible]	20	✓	1833	1	1	[illegible]	30	✓					
1800	1	1		15	✓		2	4				1834	1	1	[illegible]	40	✓					
1802	1	2					3	3				1835	1	2	[illegible]	30	✓					
	2	1	[illegible]	8	✓		4	2	[illegible]	10			2	1	[illegible]	40	✓					

GENE C. S[illegible]
P.O. Box 9[illegible]
Elyria, Ohio 44035

August 17, 1975

Dear Mr. Cohen:

Received the books the other day and all were in perfect, if unsigned, condition. Is there any chance your autograph would make the book more attractive to a serious collector? All kidding aside, thank you very much.

Yes, I've broken down the C6 and C7 by die state on my list, primarily because of the articles and exposure in PW. And yes, I would like to eventually acquire as many different die states of as many different varieties as possible. Admirable goal, no? Goals are meant to be set high, but with my income the goals appear more like dreams. Oh well, dreaming is nice entertainment.

Thank you for the updated information on new discoveries and total population changes on the R7's. An R6 is still a dream for me but one of these years ... . Jim McGuigan claims to have cherried a F12 1794 C3a from the NEO show after I had left. Ouch. Could have sworn I looked at every half cent at least twice.

Would you help me with a problem? Enclosed is a pressing of an 1803 C3 with the broken die at 18. The coin isn't in the greatest shape but it's obvious that the obverse die is almost terminal. It couldn't have lasted much longer. But the reverse doesn't show signs of the large crack. It's weak, but not in the proper area to be the start of the major break. Yet your text (page 31) states "..., it is scarce with perfect dies (first use), and quite common with the cracked reverse die (second use)." How can this be? If a near terminal obverse die is paired with a reverse die that has not yet broken, it's almost inconceivable that it (C3) could be quite common with the second use of the reverse die. I must be overlooking something but this seems to be a contridiction to me.

Thank you for the kind invitation to stop and chat if we are ever in the DC area. We may just take you up on it. We have relatives and friends in Baltimore and VA and are frequently in the area. The invitation extends from this direction also. Please let me know if you are ever in this area. Elyria is only 20-25 miles west of Cleveland. Ron Guth (EAC 444) from FL and his new bride of two weeks were here yesterday. It may not have been the high spot of Chriss's honeymoon but Ron and I sure as heck enjoyed and helped each other. Watch for his article in PW on the 1825 C2 with the diagnostic C1 rim bump.

Sincerely,

Gene

September 6, 1975

Mr. Roger S. Cohen, Jr.
4720 Montgomery Lane
Bethesda, MD 20014

Hello Roger,

Please excuse me for being a pest but it was your book that got me so engrossed in the "little half sisters" and I'm holding you at least partially responsible for my enthusiasm. I'm sorry for throwing another question at you before you've had a chance to answer my last one but here goes.

Enclosed is a pressing of a recently acquired 1806 C-2. Under magnification, there is a spur on the right side of the 8 and the 0 in the date, and there is a prominent dot in the loop of the 6. Have you ever noticed any or all of the above? None of my books mention any of these. The two spurs could be defects but the raised dot within the six sure appears to be intenticnal. I'd appreciate anything you can tell me about these. If the dot is common to that particular die, it could be an easy diagnostic point. Or is there an outside chance that this is another die (I don't have another coin to compare it too, obviously)? Thanks for any help you can give.

Isn't the pressing a beauty? I spent a little time in the workshop the other night and threw together some scrap lumber and sheet rubber and lo and behold - a coin press. It's doing such a nice job that I spent one day last weekend pressing my collection for at home reference (the girl at the bank was getting tired of seeing my ugly face every Saturday). It sure beats the eraser technique I was using for pressings before.

Halfsensibly,

Sem

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44035

1/8/76

Dear Mr. Cohen,

I wrote to you months ago and sent a pressing of an 1806 C-2 with a strong dot centered in the loop of the 6 of the date. At the GENA show I saw a photo of Don Lukas 1806-2 and it had a dot that was not centered but close to the digit at about 2.00.

My wife got me a scope and Polaroid attachment for Christmas and enclosed is my second shot, which is probably clearer than the pressing was.

Do you have any notes or opinions on this dot? Cause, frequency, etc, anything? Any information will be greatly appreciated.

In any case, will you please return the photo? A SASE is enclosed for your convenience.

Do you have any articles planned for PNI? I really look forward to them.

Sincerely,

Gene Braig

1/12/76

Dear Gene,

The Photography is Very Good. I had been waiting to answer but I was some what doubtful of the Dot. I've never seen this before. I do suggest you test to see if the dot is corrosion. I would soak the coin in oil for about 24 Hours and using a magnifyer and a tooth pick. Your dot may disappear. There seem to be other foreign matter around the rest of the date also. You might be able to clean that matter out.

I haven't got anything going to P.W. in the future I am working on an update of the Condition Census such as I wrote for the 11/15/73 issue. Rarity continues downward. such as 1802 CMM #1 is R-6 and 1809 CMM #1 is R6 and 1806 CMM #3 is R-6 ~~all 3~~ The last 2 are Now known with 13 specimens Now. The 1802 is 15 specimen.

Sincerely

Roger

GENE C. BRAIN
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44035

1/15/76

Dear Roger,

Thanks for writing on my 1806-2 with center dot. I've tried a toothpick on it but not oil. Pure olive oil is what you're supposed to use, isn't it? I've never tried anything like that on a coin. And how do I clean the rest of the foreign matter out - toothpick again? I'm obviously new to early copper.

The scope has taught me not to believe my eyes. What appeared to be a heavy die break from the left ribbon to the rim on an 1828-3 turned out to be a strategically placed wax build up. Oh well!

As part of your CC update, Jim McGuigan tells me he and Jon Lusk chunked "the following at the Washington show in December - 09-1 10/12; 06 3 7 ICA crack; 06 3 4-5 ICA cud; 04-4 15. Jim also claims to have purchased an 1804-4 in VF 25 (!) from another EAC member.

You mentioned "Original" Electrotypes in your book (page 102). I recently purchased a nice 1842 G-1 electro. It's an electro of the original striking, ergo an original electrotype.

Sincerely,
Gene

ANA LM1557 EAC 445

GENE C. BRAIG

UNITED STATES COINS

BUY-SELL-TRADE
(216) 365-4244

BOX 965
ELYRIA OH 44035

2/9/76

Dear Mr. Cohen,

Am running short on books again. Please send three (3) more. My check for $27 is enclosed.

What do you know about the 1804 C-2 RTY cud break Mr. Cogan mentioned in the last issue of PW? I've never heard of it and it does seem to disrupt your tentative emission sequence.

Sincerely,

Gene

Elyria, Ohio 44035

13 March 76

Dear Roger,

Have a few minutes and wanted to write and thank you for giving so freely of your time and knowledge at the EAC meeting. You made the trip worthwhile for Mark, Frank and me. We really enjoyed having you expound until the wee small hours. As luck would have it, though, in my tired condition and less alert than normal, the PA bear managed to catch me in one of the most beautiful traps I've ever had the misfortune not to notice until it was too late. That indiscretion set me back an additional $15 but it wasn't too painful since there weren't a lot of half cents to be had and the wallet still had some green left in it.

Bravery doesn't run in the family but upon returning home, with lower lip between teeth and toothpick in hand, I attacked my 1806 C-2 with the dot in the six under the scope. You're probably tired of hearing it but "you were right" again. The dot melted away to nothing with very little effort on my part. One of these days I'll learn. How long does one remain a novice in this variety game?

Mark and I have come up with another one though. We both have an 1857 with a flattened heart-shaped depression directly under the knot. We tried to get some Polaroid shots of it but they didn't turn out real well. It's hard to capture something that minor. Mark wants to write it up and send it in to PW along with the pictures. Something adhering to the die isn't quite as dramatic as a new die break or a dot but we're having a lot of fun looking.

Can't remember if we told you or not - Mark sold the S-12 I used to make the EAC handout pressings with to Ted Naftzger after the business meeting. It did us good to learn that even Ted will stoop to buying a fake on accasion. Wonder how the electro will look next to all of his MS goodies.

Thanks, Roger, for making the trip worthwhile, and please keep me in mind if you locate some nice duplicates. Helping the competition isn't all that bad.

Sincerely,

Steve

ANS

U.S. HALF CENTS

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44035

2/76

	C	G	OTHER	COND	DUP
1793	1	4			
	2	3	40°	15	
	3	1			
	4	2			
1794	1a	9			
	1b	9s			
	2a	5	330° CLACK	20	
	2b	5L			
	3a	7s			
	3b	7L			
	4a	4s			
	4b	4L			
	5	8			
	6	6			
	7	2		X	
	8	3			
	9	1	350° ROUGH	12	
1795	1	1			
	2a	3	REV ROUGH	7	
	2b	8			
	3	7		8	
	4	4		12	
	5a	6			
	5b	6K			
	6a	5		7/10	
	6a	5	TAL		
	6b	5K			
1796	1	2			
	2	1			
1797	1	4		12	
	1	4	TAL		
	1	4	SHATT	8/7	
	1	4	SHATT TAL		
	2	3		5/3	
	2	3	TAL		
	3a	2			
	3b	1			
	3c	2n			
			LG CT		
1800	1	1		15	

	C	G	OTH	COND	DUP
1802	1	2			
	2	1		8	
1803	1	2			
	1	2	REV ARK	15	
	2	4		X	
	2	4	STAT ARK		
	3	3	OAV PERF	6	
	3	3	OAV BULGE	7	NE
	3	3	ARK @ 18		
	3	3	REV ARK		
	4	1		X	
1804	1	6	REV PERF	15	NE
	1	6	REV ARK	10	
	2	10/6			
	4	10			
	5	11	REV PERF		
	5	11	REV ORKS	15	?
	6	8	REV PERF		
	6	8	REV ARK 1	12	
	6	8	1/N 2	15	NE
	6	8	3	15	
	6	8	4		
	6	8	5		
	6	8	6	15	
	6	8	7	7	NE
	6	8	8/N 8	20	
	6	8	9	20	NE
	6	8	10		
	7	9	REV PERF		
	7	9	REV ARK 1	12	
	7	9	2		
	7	9	3		
	7	9	4		
	7	9	5		
	8	7		15	NE
	8	7	LIDE ARK	20	NE
	9	5		20	NE
	9	5	RTY ARK	8	
	10	4		40	
	11	1		12	

	C	G	OTH	COND	DUP
1804	12	3		30	
	13	2	OAV PERF	30	
	13	2	FIELD CRK		
1805	1	1		25	?
	2	4			
	3	3		8	NE
	4	2		10	
1806	1	1		20	
	2	2		15	NE
	3	1/2	REV PERF		
	3	1/2	FCA ARK		
	4	2		20	
1807	1	1		45	NE
1808	1	1/N			
	2	1		15	
	2	1	OBAT CRK		
	3	2		15	
1809	1	3/N			
	2	3		15	
	3	4		20	
	4	1		12	
	5	5	OAV PERF	20	
	5	5	BUDDER BRNS		
	6	2		15	?
1810	1	1		8	
1811	1	2	OAV PERF	7	
	1	2	2 STA ARK		
	1	2	4 STA ARK		
	2	1		8	
1825	1	2		45	NE
	2	1	LUMP		
	2	1	NO LUMP	40	NE
1826	1	1		30	
	2	2	OAV PERF	45	NE
	2	2	2 STA ARK		
1828	1	2		40	NE
	2	3		15	
	3	1		50	?
1829	1	1	REV SPIKE	15	
	1	1	NO SPIKE		

	C	G	OTHER	COND	DUP
1831	1	1			
1832	1	2		20	
	2	1		40	
	2	1	REV CRACK		
	3	3		20	
1833	1	1		30	
1834	1	1		40	
1835	1	2		40	
	2	1		35	
	2	1	REV CRACKS	20	
1849	1	3		50	
1850	1	1		20	
1851	1	1		40	
1853	1	1		40	
1854	1	1		50	
1855	1	1		40	
1856	1	1		50	
1857	1	1		20	

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44036

24 March 76

Dear Roger,

Enclosed is a rough drawing of the 1857 with the depression beneath the knot. I sent the photos to Mark and he hopes to write something up and send it into PW. His coin is a nice Unc and mine is typically low-grade VF20 but the depression shows up equally well on both. I had noticed it on mine but thought it was nothing more than damage until Mark came up with an exact duplicate.

Frank Wilkinson has located what he believes to be a fairly early unknown state on the 1811 C-1. The pressing he sent me does not have the cud break but the die is definitely starting to go. I asked him to send you a pressing for your information and, hopefully, comments.

Things have been so slow around here I actually broke down at a small show last Sunday and bought some silver type coins. For someone who has purchased virtually nothing other than Half Cents for almost two years the change of pace came as quite a shock to my system. My wife thought I had flipped out when I got home and showed her what I had bought.

Sales from my list have slowed now after only two to three dozen pieces but I sold another copy of your book yesterday. At this rate we should deplete your supply in no time. How many more do we have to go?

My inventory is enclosed, as you requested. I'm obviously not into CC or even high grade items so there is no need to apologize for your duplicates being low grade. An identifiable variety in G6 with surfaces and no detracting defects is welcome at any time. Please keep me in mind as you run across anything I can use. I do have a lead on an 1803 C-4 (G-1, I'm learning) in F12 with "great surfaces" but have not seen the coin or heard the price as yet. Here's hoping. Wish it were a C-2 G-4.

Sincerely,

Gene

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44035

May 7, 1976

Hello Roger,

It's been a while - how have you been? I imagine tax season has kept you pretty busy. I help out a few relatives and friends but don't do enough to make it a chore at tax time (except for my own).

Enclosed is a pressing of my latest acquisition. You're the first one I've told about it except for a novice from RI who is mainly interested in type coins and not necessarily early copper. It's your 1794-7, obviously, but a little nicer than your book indicates it is normally found. Is there any chance it is nice enough to be included in the CC and, if so, where? The pressing is fairly accurate except some of the mushiness is due to crud adhering to the surfaces that I haven't built up the nerve to try to remove as yet. This coin is quite a joy to me as it is only my second R6 (high or otherwise).

My only other fairly recent acquisitions have been your varieties #2 and #4 of 1803 which have been eluding me at every step. The #2 is far from being a nice coin but it serves a purpose by filling a blank spot. The #4 is a pleasing Fine with better than average surfaces and a welcome addition to my collection.

Someone in the Postal Service ripped off a copy of your book last month. I sent two to a West Coast collector but he received only one with tape hanging all over the place. See, the book is popular in undreamed of circles.

Sincerely,

Gene

2/10/76

Dear Steve,

Thats Quite a feed. Based on your Process I have graded it as F-15. I would like to See it at Some Point. I Feel it should be No Problem Just Washing it With a toothbrush and Soap + Water should Not harm it. I sometimes let a Few coins in a soapy Toilet for a Half Hour before I apply the toothbrush.

The CC of the Variety is as follows.

Remember this is only My record there are Probably Many More. I have record of 70 Specimens

AU-50 - Showy Collector -

EF-45 - Last Reported in 1967 Specimen has been Cryonated

EF-40 - My Specimen and Pictured in My book

VF-25 - B+R auction of 2/76

F-15 - 4 Specimens Other than yours.

Thank for the update on your Collection I gather you have 66 Varieties and Many die stats to go. Do my duplicates if may have - Save you Coins use. When you get in the area let me know at least a Day ahead so I can get them out

Sincerely

Roger

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44035

May 15, 1976

Dear Roger,

Thanks for the information on my newly found 1794-7. Every time you talk about toothpicks and toothbrushes I start to shudder but I'm learning. I did take a toothpick to the coin under the scope and clean up the date area and the blob in the left loop of the bow, etc. The coin does look a little better now. One of these days I'll let you work on one of my coins so I'll have a scapegoat if the results aren't as expected. Nice, no? I did buy some pure olive oil but haven't had the nerve to use it yet!

You mentioned the B & R 1794-7 in your letter. Do you have any idea what the coin sold for? I figured Jim McGuigan to be interested in it as my records show he needs it and his favorite competition, Jon Lusk, has only a G6.

Your last rarity/CC update showed the 1794-7 as being known in MS. Did you downgrade it to AU50 in your letter or has something else happened? These Half Cents get confusing after a while.

Yes, my collection now contains 66 varieties plus a few additional die states. It's not much but you have to start somewhere. Considering my involvement with the little half sisters is only about 2½ years old, my progress hasn't been too bad. I would appreciate any help you can offer from your duplicates and will take you up on the offer if and when I ever get to your area. Sue (wife) and I were going to head for ANA this year but it's financially out of the question so we may take a trip to VA and Baltimore where we have relatives and friends. My vacation is slated for ANA week so we may be able to get together unless you plan to be in NY.

Could you furnish me the population on the other R6 items as you know them in your notes? I've noted the populations you furnished at EAC for the R7 and R8 items but guess we ran out of time before getting down into the R6's. There never seems to be enough time for everything.

Is there any chance you'll be heading this direction for the NEO show 7/16 - 7/18? I've already contacted Mark Borckardt and Frank Wilkinson and hope to write to McGuigan and Lusk from Michigan so we may have a mini-meeting going. We normally have a show-and-tell session the day before and get to the show early the next day for all the cherries. That's the show where Jim found his 1794-3a last year.

Sincerely,
Gene

ROGER S. COHEN, JR
4720 MONTGOMERY LANE
BETHESDA, MD. 20014

5/24/76

Dear Gene

Got your Note of 5/15. The UNC Specimen of 1794-7 from the Showers Collection has indeed been Moved from UNC to AU-50 I graded the Showers Collection based on photographs I was Never able to actually See it. I have seine had a Very reliable Reputation Condition Grader the EAC Member. Regardless of the Circumstances it is Very difficult to Correctly grade Coins. I know I have Varied as much as 10 Points on Higher Number grading with the same Coin. It will be a long time before Half Cents Will be able to have a Condition Census Such as large Cents have. In addition you might include What this Written on Condition such as my book and My article in 9/15/73 P.N.

Your request for info on R-6 Coins is as follows.

1794-3	16	1805-2	17
V-6	15	1806-3	13
V-7	20	1809-1	13
V-8	24		
1795-3	22		
1796-1	14		
1802-1	18		
1804-4	25		

Also listed as R-6 in my book are Now R-5

I'm sure there will be further specimens of all of them found. Don't hang too much on Parts. I know I'm Nat. Needless to say I haven't ~~been able to get~~ gotten the 3 New subscripts of 1794 because I wont pay Ridiculous Prices. More are going to be found.

I will not be at the NCO Show or the Just that Weekend taken on something else Nat Comended with Coins. Yesh have other interest. Would like to see you sometime this summer. I plan to attend ANA for 1 or 2 Days. I can't stand it longer. To much Comercialism. So I may be able that Week.

I just answed a letter from John Cogan Who is another Half Cent Collector He has a 1794-8 for trade or Sale I gave him your Name and address so he may be getting in touch with you.

Sincerely
Roger

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44035

May 27, 1976

Dear Roger,

Thanks much for the information on the R6 population. I see where you wait until you've actually seen the coin to update your notes officially. Guess experience has taught you that this is wisest and less time consuming in the long run. It makes a lot of sense.

I do not stress the rarity factors as much as it may seem. My main claim is curiousity. That and the joy of coming up with something that is definitely hard to locate, regardless of just how hard. My two R6's will be R4's by the time my collection goes on the block but, in the interim, it's been fun.

I understand W. K. Raymond went all the way to $600 for the 1794-7 (the highest mail bid was $570) from the Montgomery collection offered by B & R in 2/76. The coin is supposedly a VF, probably a 25 or 20 since B & R mention a few negatives. In retrospect, my F12 or F15 1794-7 was a relatively good buy at under $400. Had it been listed in a catalog I would not have placed a bid as the high caliber coins are generally out of my range. The "commercialism" aspects definitely enter the picture when you are on a limited budget.

I am aware of Mr. Cogan's 1794-8. The last I heard it was available for trade only (he preferred a 1794-6). The coin is supposedly VF20 but black. John has one heck of a start on a nice collection, judging from the inventory he sent me. The last I heard he was working on completing the 1793's. Nice! In any case, if he is willing to sell the 94-8 now for cruddy old cash I hope he takes your advise and contacts me.

How comprehensive are your notes on the population of the R5 ranks? I'll probably be bugging you for that next. Guess the name of the game is "how low do you Go?".

I understand that Jon Lusk has found a 1795-1 or 2 struck on a thin lettered-edge planchet and that he may have purchased the 1796 advertised by Jack Beymer as VG-F. Jim McGuigan supposedly got three coins from the Showers collection: 94-5 in 25; 97-3b in 12 and 05-2 in 8. Rumors only!!

Sincerely,

Gene

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44035

August 13, 1976

Dear Roger,

The PEST is back again, this time hoping to gain access to the vault housing your collection and the opportunity to view same. I'm making the assumption that your offer was serious but set me straight if I'm out of line.

Current plans call for me to be in Mechanicsville, MD sometime on Monday, 8/23. Early Tuesday I hope to depart for NY and the ANA convention, where I have reservations for two nights at the Americana. This will allow me to take in the portion of the auction dealing with half cents and the EAC meeting the following night, with an early departure back to Mechanicsville on Thursday, 8/26. Plans to return to Ohio are indefinite but, as a working man, I must be back by Monday. Any chance at all we'll be able to get together someplace along the line for a private to semi-private showing of your collection (and hopefully duplicates)?

I'm driving and really enjoy company, if you are so inclined.

Frank Wilkinson and I have been wheeling for the two 1811 pre-2* break die states listed in PW this month, but with no success. Did you have a chance to see them while they were in Mr. Katman's possession? I'm surprised that nothing has been reported pertaining to the earlier die states before.

Things have been slow for me recently. My most recent acquisition is a F12 1794-C4a from Jon Lusk. Nothing special, but the lack of one was becoming annoying. I also received from Ron Guth one of the 1825 C-2 with the rim lump diagnostic of the C-1 written up in PW a few issues back. It makes for interesting conversation. Ron wants to hold out for sub-variety classification but I'm inclined to agree with the old timers and put it in the same category (whatever that may be) as a broken die.

Hope we can get together again.

Sincerely,

Gene
Norman Norway

[illegible] C. BEARD
[illegible]
[illegible]

September 24, 1976

Hello Roger,

We sure missed you at the ANA convention this year. It was a fairly good show and the EAC meeting turned out to be quite an eye opener. A fellow who, before the official meeting started, had introduced himself as someone who used to collect half cents, joined the "group" (Raymond, Cogan, Lusk, McGuigan, Katman, myself) and asked if we would like to look at a few of the pieces from his collection. He then proceeded to dazzle us with the following: 94-1b F15; 95-2b F15 with a few problems; 95-6b F12 ?; 96-2 F15+ thick planchet; 97-3c ugly but definitely identifiable; 02-1 VG10; 05-2 VF20 with scratches; 31-1 VF20. We thought McGuigan was going to faint!

Bill Raymond showed us on John Cogan's cherried AU50 1806-2 where traces of what appear to be numerous other r's can be made out under the R of Liberty on high grade specimens. McGuigan offered Cogan $1,000 on the spot for the coin but John wanted to keep it since it was a "slight improvement over the porous G4 in his collection". John did sell me another 04-5, which brings my count up to three. The next time we meet I may have five and beat the statement in your book about seeing as many as four at a time.

I had hoped to visit you and, hopefully, see your collection but my return to our friends in Mechanicsville was late Thursday and they had plans for us on Friday and we left early Saturday morning. Maybe the next trip. You do show your collection to interested collectors, do you not?

Frank Wilkinson picked up a VF20 03-4 (cherry) and a VF35 04-5 (attributed), both of which please him greatly. Frank also said to ask you about the Norweb collection in Cleveland, OH. Cleveland is a stone's throw away for me and I'd love to see a really high-power collection if at all possible. Frank indicates that some high-power half cents are included in the collection but said to check with you.

My only decent addition was a VF20 1811-1 which I bought hoping to beat McGuigan's auction purchase in a Whist match. Seriously, it was a nice improvement over my VG. I did wander down to PACE Coin Shop to see the Edward's copy Ralph has been advertising but the price/value relationship was not there, even though the coin was fairly nice (but not Unc).

The clan hopes to congregate at the MSNS annual fall show in November. Any chance you'll be there?

Sincerely,

9/29/76

Gene C. Brady
P.O. Box 965
Elyria Ohio 44035

Dear Gene,

Thanks for your letter about the Schoenwalter Collection. The one I did heard of but never seen. I'm really sorry I wasn't at the EAC Meeting but I just can't get to everything.

I spent Saturday at the ANA and after 1 day I've usually had it with Coin Shows. There's just too much commercialism for me.

The Norweb Collection in Cleveland is very extensive in all series of coin & related item. I'm not sure but I understand they own the "Cleveland Plain Dealer" Newspaper. Mr Norweb purchased a copy of my book 4 years ago his address at that time was.

R. HENRY NORWEB
832 National City Bank Building
Cleveland Ohio 44114

My impression it that he is an older man and very wealthy. I have no idea as to how they would take to an interested Half Cent Collector trying to see their coin. I understand Mrs. Norweb is also a Collector.

Sorry you weren't able to get to see what I have. Fred Wilkerson also was unable. Perhaps.

I should attend the big Meeting in November and bring a few duplicates. I don't know if I can be there. Bob Gaell is coming by our 11/13 to go over ~~stock~~ other Collection.

The only New acquisition for Me is a 1794 Cent #9 in VF-35 its an early die State so I have both early and late die state in the same condition.

Sincerely
Roger

[illegible]
P.O. [illegible]
Elyria, [illegible]

December 5, 1976

Dear Roger,

Just a quick note to fill you in on the happenings at MSNS and the gathering of the "clan" on the outside chance that no one else has.

The MSNS show was one of their better ones with many dealers and adequate space for a change, but copper wasn't too available. Nick of Nick's coins (VA) did show up at Borckardt's table with a double-row box of low grade half cents. I checked it quickly looking for scarce varieties - zero. I did cherry a VG 1803 Cohen-2 on the floor. Not all was wasted.

We started gathering at Jon Lusk's around 6:00 Friday and got serious when Raymond showed up around 8:00 carrying half cents galore. Seven of us sat down at the whist table with a large cent collector as score-keeper: Jon Lusk, Jim McGuigan, Bill Raymond, Frank Wilkinson, Alan Brouard, Mark Borckardt and myself. Jon had designed a computer program to score the match and Jim beat WK by a point (unofficial input - the official scores had disappeared).

We got through only 1804 but saw 48 of the 54 possible varieties. The missing six were 93-4, 94-1b, 94-3b, 96-1 and 2, and 97-3c. Ricky Gross was supposed to join us but didn't make it but it is doubtful he would have been carrying the 94-3b. WK was carrying his unique sub-varieties and we really enjoyed being able to see them.

The number of best grades/number of varieties by player were as follows: WK 27/33; Jim 16/37; Jon 2/40; Frank 2/15; Gene 1/29; Al 0/12; Mark 0/12 (Mark was playing with part of his dad's stock). All of this is unofficial - PW should have a factual write-up in the next issue.

Around 4:00 AM WK mentioned that most of what he was carrying was for sale so we got out the coffee and had at it. Some of his offerings were: 94-7 15; 94-8 8; 95-1 20 (nice); 95-2b 2 (very ugly); 95-3 in 5,6, 6, 8, and 15; 97-2 15; 97-3b 5; 04-1 40; 04-4 (ugly 4 per WKR but VG7 to the rest of us - I bought it); 04-5 35; 04-6 #1 40; 04-9 55; 04-11 40 with green on rev; 05-2 ? but nice; 05-4 55; 06-2 ? but nice; 08-2 VF; 11-1 4*break 35. Plus others, including a few proofs.

Mark and I left Saturday as Bill was pulling out the coins again for a private showing for Jim and Jon. I haven't heard what, if anything, they bought.

Bob Yuell says he really enjoyed his visit with you. He hasn't stopped raving yet! Wish you both could have made MSNS.

Sincerely,

Al

12/8/76

Dear Gene,

Thanks for your letter of 12/5. Yours is the first report on the "Clan" Meeting. I've had some like I missed a chance. to show off anyway, it was of interest to me.

As far as the wheat watch was concerned I call "Fool" WKR had coins with him which he didn't own. You've got to realize that he is a dealer personally. I've known him for many years and watched his "Collection". It consists of what he hasn't been able to get his price for and coin which he has on consignment. The group of coins that he showed up with consisted of a large consignment from a Missouri Collector who often devouring the Shower Collection has turned loose his duplicates to WKR to sell. The addition WK had coins from Blaisdell's Collection which he is peddling. He may keep a few coins but only until he gets his price from the Missouri Collector. The 1794 4b, 5b and 6b will be in the C the Missouri Mass Collection when he will come up with the cash to WKR's satisfaction.

This is not to detract from the coins you saw but to put what I consider perspective which to be, a match between owners of coin, not persons holding consignment. I had seen all these coins on 11/21 at my home. Many of these coins I had sold when I sent out my FPL #1 in 1972. The same Missouri Collector mentioned above purchased from FPL #1 a great many of the coins you saw

What WK is primarily doing is to promote so called 1/2 cents. This is fine. We need dealers but for him to play a Wheat match with them I consider it to be "DIRTY POOL"

12/1/76

Since writing the above I have found out that it was understood that the coins WKR was using were not his. This still doesn't change my opinion of playing wheat with coins that are not owned by the person using them

I'm enclosing the latest update on the rarity & condition census. Don't forget to read my introduction which is in P.W. in Sept 1973. What I wrote then still applies except that I've heard from more people than are listed.

January 1 is just around the corner for me so I'll keep to my leaves in paper so don't expect any quick answers to any letters. Just the same I'd like to hear of any new developments

Sincerely,
Roger

Gene C. Brady
P.O. Box 965
Elyria O 44035

1/7/77

Dear Gene,

Just a short note. I don't know who owns Lot CC Coin that I know of. Many Collectors are reluctant to let the information out. I'm sure I have been told by the owner. "I'll let you know but don't tell anyone else." The CC information comes also from auction catalogues. I may find out who gets the Coin and I may not. If you will note the Large Cent CC which is published does not list the current owner. However to the extent known prior owners are listed. It is going to take a long time before Half Cents can get some of the long chain of ownership that some large cents have. The addition some research has to be done. Melt Fletchers series in the "Penny Wise" has helped, but we've got a long way to go. In some cases I know of a few that perhaps others don't I.E. the F-15 example of 1794 #7.

The Coin was in the Brookslow Collection as V.F. where he got it I don't know. Stacks held it in the FPL of the Brookslow Collection in 1963. The Many Cases Stack's made a list of the purchasers. However the Coin did not sell right away so no record of the purchaser was made. The 1973 Tom Kalmar Cone accounts the 1794 #7, 1794 #8 and the 1795 #2b in a Coin shop in Philadelphia

They had the Original Brockton envelopes with them.
After considerable time was spent by Kalman and Myself
we determined that they were the Brockton Coins. We
have No idea who owned them in the period 1963-1973.
Kalman kept the 1794 #8 and the 1795 #2. I purchased
the 1794 #7 and sold it twice to a Person in Flor who collected
for about 6 months when he sold it back to me.
The coin is ~~[illegible]~~ CC 5 as I list it. Since I
have CC 2 the coin was a duplicate. Each month
I sold it to a Collector who you know but I
dont think I should tell anyone who it was if the
buyer wants to let it be known: let him tell
This is the problem about the CC and why I can
Not answer your question" When are you going to
let us semi-serious Collectors in on who owns all the
Higa ~~powerd~~ Power Pieces you list in the CC?" I'd like
to know the answer to this question Myself.
Just remember its easy to ask questions and
many times virtually impossible to answer the
questions. as you can see from the example of the
1794 #7 it takes a lot of writing to even answer
Partially 1/99th of you all inclusive question
and when you Multiply 99 Variols by 7 you come
up with 693 coins which would take one solid Month
to write the answers to the question that you asked me.
~~that you Request~~.
Well it was just a short Note its Now 6:30 AM and its
taken me 1/2 Hour to write this at a time when I'm
Very Pressed for time

Yours in haste
Roger

GENE BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44035

01 January 77

Dear Roger,

I understand that your time is now limited and that you will not be able to respond to too many letters but I wanted to write and thank you for the updated CC. When are you going to let us semi-serious collectors in on who owns all the high-power pieces you list in the CC? I'm starting inventory lists on the collectors I come in contact with, hoping to get an idea of where a needed variety may come from in the future, assuming cherries continue to be found.

A recent letter from Bob Yuell RAVES about your collection and duplicates. Offer me a standing invitation to call you for an appointment and chances are I'll take you up on it within the forseeable future. I hate to admit it, but there is not one "Cohen" coin in my collection. Somehow, I cannot imagine anyone having 13 of the 1805 C3 in his duplicate box. Bob may not stop raving for the next three years!

Most of us at Ann Arbor were aware that the coins WK was carrying were not really his. Still, put yourself in our shoes. Who can resist the lure of competition? Even WK is subject to human frailities. When he admitted he was carrying about 150 half cents, it made the day for the rest of us who stand a snowball's chance of seeing some of what he was carrying. I've been interested (seriously interested) in your little half sisters for a little over two years and have now had a chance to see and actually handle some unique and semi-unique sub-varieties. If it takes the word "Whist" to bring that type of coin out onto the table, so be it. I'm all for it. Add a few coins ranked in the CC and the evening was complete. Please remember, Roger, some of us are new to this game and are willing to accept the scraps. We're the ones who may want to buy your collection one of these days. Intact!

Rumor has it that, after I left the clan gathering, Jim McGuigan bought a VF20 1795 C1 (may be a 25) and a MS 1797 C1 (I don't know where this one came from unless it is the 50+ WK showed in the Whist match). Jon Lusk supposedly bought one of WK's numerous 1795 C3's in G6 for around $375. Jim is supposedly working on WK for the 1804 C2. Chances are he will own it (Whist graded VG10, WK graded F12-15?) by the next time I see him.

Roger, I've rambled long enough. Back to those returns!

Sincerely,

Gene

GENE C. BRAIS
P.O. Box 9[illegible]
Elyria, Ohio 44035

11/27/78

Dear Roger,

We missed you at the "Happening" this year. The group was small at seven (counting Sally Luk and Mabel Ann Wright) but we all enjoyed it. Show and tell with die states and recent upgrades was the main topic of conversation. John Wright had to work out the 1838 large cents he has been he studying for the next P-W article.

The MSNS show yielded a couple more 180+ C-6's for my growing accumulation and put my memory into gear. Didn't you say last year that your notes cover 22 separate and identifiable reverse die states? If so, would you mind sharing your notes with me? Not counting a break-less reverse or the terminal state with the OF cud shown in the photo you had at EAC 76, I think I'm up to 15 individual different examples:

1. Faint incomplete line breaks only
2. Line breaks complete including run to OF, double break M to rim, chips C N and between ME
3. U cud on left side only, break I to rim
4. Strong cud at U, thick break M to rim, break C to rim
5. Cud right of M thru E
6. Cud R.I.C
7. Cud over N not quite full, cud C 20
8. Full cud over N, break between OO from tip of cud to final O
9. Chip between M uprights
10. Cud over first A, OF-A branch break to O, break final O to rim
11. Starting to cud over I
12. Cud over I, cud over CA
13. Thick break over left upright of M
14. Full cud over M
15. Thick break from O in OF left to rim above

Also, if you have duplicates available for sale, especially any not listed above, I'm very interested.

The 180+ plum + with items in EF 40 recently offered by BOR is VF 30 at best (but I kept it).

Sincerely,

Gene

12/12/78

Gene C. Brady
PO Box 965
Elyria Ohio 44035

Dear Gene

Haven't heard from you for a while but your letter says what you've been up to. I'm enclosing my Notes on the reverse of #6 of 1804 (6-8). Perhaps you can decipher what I have. My copies doesn't work very well. It would appear there were Notes on 20 different states of the die of which 19 are in my Collection. I have yet to see a Perfect Die. Note my earliest state has minor cracks at MER.

Perhaps the best thing to do would be for us to get our boys together at some point and go one what we have.

I'll be at the EAC Meeting in Flint I'm taking a Table. So if you can join let me know.

Sincerely,
Roger

Gene L. Green
P.O. Box 985
Elyria, Ohio 44035

2/3/79

Dear Roger,

Thanks for the copy of your notes on the reverse of #6 of 1804. We coincide almost exactly except you have much more detail for the early states than I do. And most of mine aren't in the greatest of condition. You're right, the best thing to do would be for us to compare coins one of these days.

I had hoped to make it to the EAC meeting but the boss never responded to my request for vacation time off. I first asked in mid-December and finally decided he didn't want me to go. Maybe next time.

My coin activity currently is zero. Between work and school I've had to wait to find time to thank you for the notes, for which I apologize. With a little luck I may get into Cleveland for the Warrenville show early next month and to Dearborn in April for Central States. Other than that, the outlook is bleak.

I've not heard of any recent finds either.

Sincerely,

Gene

GENE CRAIN
P.O. BOX 35
440 6

03/15/81

Dear Roger,

Realizing your busy season is here I don't expect a quick answer to this letter but my time is now very limited too (traveling internal auditor since 8/80) so an opportunity to write cannot go by and be ignored. Being on the road is hectic.

For your info - I've sent Rich Bilancia a down payment to hold the Alvord/Bickston 1802 cmm #1 for me. Tongue in cheek, I'll probably call the ugly piece a VG8 in my inventory. Final payment should be before April 30 so that will be the month of ownership transfer.

Could and would you share your notes on the grade, owners, condition census, etc. on all the 1802 cmm #1's that you have traced? Buying a classic rarity suddenly makes me aware of the other identified pieces. Thanks.

My research on the 1804 cmm #6 continues. Counting state #0, your notes cover 21 identifiable die states (but the final one - Sol Zambuto's late state, is not as pictured. A pressing he sent shows a fairly heavy crack but no cud; what we are calling die state #19). I'm up to 16 or 17 separate states, some of which do <u>not</u> coincide with your notes. I'd really like to study your die states under a scope one of these days. How is your schedule the rest of this year?

Still on the 1804 cmm #6, I traded the state #4 you sold me at EAC '80 to Al Brouard. Mine came from WXR at EAC Chicago (F15) and Tom Katman supposedly has one (grade?). I assume you have one for from Laurel Hill Coin (grade?) from your notes. Do you know of any others? Ricky Brow once claimed to have at least one of each die state.

Al Brouard bought Rich Bilancia's F12 Kortjohn 1804 cmm #7 die state #0 (he called before I did and now has #0, #1, and #2). Julian was trying to sell left-over Tett duplicates at the WXCC show last weekend. Ron Guth is relocating to Indiana soon and is starting to chase Half Cents again. Jim McGuigan is taking a leave from school to chase coins full-time and has been finding some goodies. Steve Fischer found a clean VG 1796 cmm #2 he is really proud of.

Sincerely, Gene

4/24/81

New address → 4701 SANGAMON RD
BETHESDA MD
20016

Dear Gene,

Well the Tornado has passed and I can get back to coins. I will be at the EAC in Dallas. Do you plan to attend?

Did you get "High Dollar" Bilancia's 1802 #1? It was called about the time you wrote the by Tettenborst who was considering the purchase at a figure well below $10,000 — He was upset and discouraged at its condition. Of course he has a F-15 example from the 3/75 Sleeth Sale.

Going over my records. I have knowledge of 18 or 19 specimens of which 3 are Fine 12 or 15 the others go down to a Fair 2 which is owned by Carvin Goodrich. The same seems to have circulated in Europe in the last year.

When I am in Dallas I plan to sell a collection that I acquired recently. It consists of 83 varieties and includes missing 1793-1, 2+3, 1794-2a, 3a, 4b, 5a+b, 1795-3+4, 1796 1, 1797-3a, 1804-2, 1805-2, 1806-3, 1808-1 and 1809-1. The 1802 #1 is the specimen from the Ruby Sale. I plan to offer it as a set but may sell individual pieces if it doesn't move on Friday 5/1 I'm enclosing a list of the coins. If you just going to be at Dallas you might let me know if you want any. My A-W phone is 301-229 7700

Regards,

Stan

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44036

3/9/81

Dear Roger,

Reading your letter and talking to Debbie on the phone make me very sorry I couldn't break away for EAC this year. We were in the last week of a dual audit with time running out and it would have been impossible for me to take a couple days off. Next time!

Yes, I got the better 1802 #1 from Rich Silancia. To the best of my knowledge, the lower grade piece went to Steve Lund. Do you mind telling me what figure Tatt had in mind for the Alvord-Bolston piece? Rich first told me 15K, then 12K, then 10K, etc., but I paid less than that and gave him a future buy-back option.

You listed the 1802 #1 from the Ruby sale but I thought John Cogan bought it and still had it in his collection. Did he sell out or upgrade? I haven't heard from John for quite a while.

After first seeing the Alvord-Bolston 1802 #1 I told Rich it was ugly and he almost agreed. It almost looks better in the pictures.

You sold most of the pieces from your list that I was interested in, including the 1831. How nice was the coin?

If still available and they have acceptable surfaces and color, I'd like to see the 1797 #3B and the 1804 #7. Can you offer a package deal for the pair? I'd hope the 1797 #3B is noticeably better than the one you sold me at EAC a year ago.

My recent activity has been limited. Being on the road sure cramps my style. Local coin shops seem to offer little more than AU Roosevelts at $3.50 each. Maybe next week will be better as I start a job in Pittsburgh.

I'd appreciate hearing your observations on EAC.

Sincerely,

Gene

4701 Sangamore Rd
Bethesda Md, 20816
8/13/81

Gene C. Bergin
P.O. Box 965
Elyria OH. 44036

Dear Gene,

Here I sit on the Coast of North Carolina spending a 2 week Vacation and writing letters about Half Cent. Debby Cate and any one on the beach but I must admit it would really be Pretty better than baking in the sun.

I was glad to hear you got the Bradelton 1802. I wont guile on behalf you over the Price as I've been in your position a number of times. I talked to Tett and he said the coin was offered to him between 7 and 8 Thousand. I'm sure he passed because he has a much better one. The Smith-Shultz March 1976 sale one that is in F-15 Condition. Tett also seems to buy well known specimens of scarce varieties.

John Cogan called me and said he needed to Raise some $ to ~~buy~~ buy a house (Round Fambre?) back about April 10th - Wants are No worth it jumped at this. I ended up with the Early 1802 but sold it to Ron Gulh at ANA I did keep the Miles 1831 Dime a number of reasons they My records indicate I have one 1831 from the Jacobs Hoffman

sale. Why would you be interested in the one I had in the set?

No the 1797 #3b is not as nice as the one I sold you. In retrospect I sorry I got rid of it. Even though warm one does not see this variety very often with such a nice planchet. This one has ~~[illegible]~~ better detail but the planchet is the usual granular or is it ~~poor~~ porous planchet.

How is the new job in Pittsburgh? Do you have a new address? Write soon

Sincerely
Roger

GENE C BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria Ohio 44036-0965

8/26/81

DEAR ROGER,

YOUR TIMING IS SUPER - A LETTER ARRIVES JUST AS I START A WELL-DESERVED VACATION. HOPE YOU'RE NOT TOO SUNBURNED TO READ THIS NOTE.

MY STAY IN PITTSBURGH IS OVER, AS IS AN AUDIT JOB IN TRENTON JUST ENDED. MY ADDRESS IS THE SAME - WE GET TO STAY AT HOME WITH THIS TRAVELING AUDIT JOB.

COULD YOU SEND ME COMPLETE PARTICULARS ON THE 1802 C-1. I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHERE AND HOW YOU RANK THE VARIOUS PIECES (I'M CALLING THE BROASTON A V68)

I'M INTERESTED IN THE MILES 1831 FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS: I'VE NEVER OWNED TWO SCARCE PIECES OF THE SAME VARIETY; WE HAVE TWO BOYS; IT MAY BE BETTER THAN THE ONE I HAVE; ETC. IT'S NATURALLY NOT WORTH AS MUCH TO ME AS THE GARRETT PIECE BUT PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU'LL ACCEPT FOR IT AND MAYBE WE CAN WORK A DEAL.

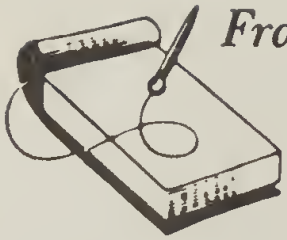
DO YOU STILL HAVE THE 1804 C-7?

THE PENN-OHIO IS THIS WEEKEND AND NORTH-EAST OHIO NEXT WEEKEND. LOOK OUT CHERRY-PICKERS.

YOURS,
Gene

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44036

9/5/81



From the desk of

GENE BRAIG

DEAR ROLEE,

ONCE I START WRITING LETTERS THE FLOODGATES ARE OPEN. PENN-OHIO LAST WEEKEND WAS A BUST. I PICKED UP A PAIR OF CASTORLAND RESTRIKES AND A 1793 C-2 "RESTRIKE" (71.8 GRAINS, PLAIN EDGE, ROUGH SURFACES)?

THE MILES 1831 MAY NO LONGER INTEREST ME, UNLESS THE PRICE IS SUPER-RIGHT. THE CONCENSUS IS SEVERE REVERSE DAMAGE, WHICH TURNS ME OFF. BESIDES, NOTE THE ENCLOSED PRESSING OF MY LATEST ACQUISITION FROM THE NORTH EAST OHIO SHOW JUST HOURS AGO. A BALTIMORE DEALER AT ANA TO RICKY GROSS TO JIM McGUIGAN ON CONSIGNMENT TO ME. DOES IT FIT INTO YOUR NOTES? NO ONE SEEMED TO THINK YOU HAD BEEN NOTIFIED YET. COLOR IS LIGHT BUT SLIGHTLY MOTTLED WITH SOME DARKER AREAS TOWARD THE PERIMETER AND ABSOLUTELY NO DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS.

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SHARE YOUR NOTES ON BOTH THE 1802 C-1 AND 1831 C-1 ?

ALSO PICKED UP AN(OTHER) 1804 C-5 LATE VF30 (HOLDER MARKED AU AND PRICED ACCORDINGLY) AND AN(OTHER) 1804 C-6 VF30 (HOLDER MARKED XF-AU) THAT FITS MY DIE STATE 2¾ DESIGNATION.

MY BEST TO DEBBIE ET AL.

Gene

Dear Gene,

Are you trying to corner the Market on 1831's? The coin that you said was the Possessor used to be Mine. So its known to me.

Chain of ownership — Stacks 3/72 Sale — RSC — on my Fixed Price list 4/10/72

to H. Walker Woods OC Bow Dealer — A. Ward OC W&F U.S. Collector 11/72 — H. Walker — R. Gruss —

— McGuyon on Consignment — G.B. 9/81 — Certified at as a VF-30 — Short Chain of ownership to Clemente

Various Middle men — Stacks 3/72 — RSC — 11/72 AWARD — 8/81 G.B. 9/81

My Records show 13 as follows

1	EF-40	RSC	Ex Atwater
2	VF-20	RSC	Ex Miles
3	EF-40	?	Merlin Sale 3/65 - Pleasant
4	VF-30	GB	Ex RSC
5	VF-20 ~~Impact~~	EFM	Ex Stacks 3/73 - DUMONT - LITTMAN
6	VF-30	BT	Ex Cathcart
7	UNC ?	?	Ex HK 1/73 Sale.
8	VF-20	SKAPLAN.	
9	VF 25-30	McGOIGAN	Ex Stoller Hagle Sale
10	AUNC 50	L. ROGERS	Ex ?
11	VF-20	Some Damage	SCHOENWALTER — Sargent Description
12	VF-30	S. Fleischer	Ex ?
13	VF Average Detail over E	GB	Ex Hopkins Pre-Sargent Description

Of Course there are some I haven't heard of so in my 2nd Edition the Circulation should be an R-L. There may even be duplication but I doubt it.

If you know of any more Reader please let me know ASAP - The second edition should be released in December so I'm trying to get it as Complete as Possible.

Thanks again for your Help

Walter on the 1531

Roger

Scan - #1 Data will be sent shortly wanted to get this off to you.

RSC

From the desk of

GENE BRAIG

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44036

9/19/81

DEAR ROGER -

AFRAID I CAN'T ADD TOO MUCH TO THE 1831 DATA BASE. ENCLOSED IS A LIST OF THE SALES I'M AWARE OF. STEVE FISCHER'S PIECE MUST BE THE 10/63 STACKS-WALTON.

CONCENSUS SEEMS TO BE THREE UNCS - NN 51ST 6/58 CLAIMS 3 AND SO DOES WALTER.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY ANY KNOWN DUPLICATE SALES ON THE LIST? AND WHO IS L. ROGERS? HAVEN'T HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE.

Gene

1831 C-1
Circ. Strikes

Unc 6/12 Chapman-Earle #3652
8/54 Davis-Graves #110
6/58 NN 51ET #1205 - "only 3 Unc known - bronzed & mint" — 1978 Date —
8/61 Kelly-ANA #1395
1/73 Kagin #211

AU 3/68 Merkin (xf-au) #140 ; Picker ? ;

XF 6/46 Mehl-Atwater #153 ; ASC
5/73 WRT Smith FPL - "near best of 11 known" Ex - Chatham
2/75 Paramount #86
5/75 Worldwide (rev scr) ← Miles Coin

VF 7/33 Chapman #1618 ;
1/39 Bluestone #326 ;
11/54 Stacks Dupont #118 ; 3/75 Stacks-Tad #849 ; Liebman ; EJM
10/63 Stacks-Walton #72 9 digs rev 1 dig obv EF ; ; 3/80 ? to SF VF30 punches SF
3/67 Merkin #126 x Farouk ? - 81.1 grains, = to Anderson-Dupont ;
4/69 Stacks-Miles #40 (EF) ; ; J Cogan VF20 rev dam ; ASC
3/72 Stacks #528 ; 10/72 RSC FPL #1 ; various ; 82.8 grains GCB
1975 Shaker Coin Shop over the counter to JRM
11/79 B&R-Garrett #27 (rev nic) (81.3 grains) GCB

F 6/18 Chapman-Jackman #886

VG 6/32 Elder (vg10) #2732

Plus (per RSC):

VF30	Ex Chatham	RT
VF20	?	? S. Kaplan
AU50	?	? L. Rogers
VF20	?	Schoenhumer

10/63 Stacks #72 Walton - "Formerly a proof, now XF, cleaned, with 9 digs on the reverse and 1 on the obverse." Must be Steve Fischer's

Breen - Proof Book - page 25 - "Three Uncirculated and half a dozen worn 1831 half cents remain"
page 52 - "--- 8 or 10 business strikes"

BULLSHIT

Dear Glenn,

Enclosed find the envelope for the 1931 which you recently purchased.

As to the 1831 — First of all Pilcher denies anything WB has written about specimens. He wrote the NN 31st Sale Catalogue back in 1958. The same basic information appears in the proof book. Also the same data appears in the Eugene book which is dedicated and really is WB work. What it comes down to is that WB is still being relied on when he hasn't had an original thought about the 1831 since 1960 —

Your information has surpassed anything that he has.

Taking your list - first of all trying to sort them out - and remembering that grading varies also past histories sometimes can be tied and sometimes not.

Those going through your list those indicated in ○ the can send you the record of. Notice that #2 + #6 Repeat. Thus the amounts that I know of is

2 RSC
2 GCB
1 ESM
1 SF
1 JRM
1 RT
1 S Kaplan
1 L Rogers
1 SCHOENWALTER
2 - UNKNOWN OWNERS
KAIN 1 PICHER

Lloyd Rogers is a collector of Harry Standin who owns a number of Chase Half Cents as well as other denominations.

Steve Kaplan lives in Brooklyn and Meyer May not have his specimen at times. Pairs are sold and thus the last to know.

This leaves 10 specimens on your list that I can not tie to — Which are Numbered 14-23

Anything Prior to 1950 should be forgotten unless the Chain of ownership can be established. 30 years ownership of a coin is a long time. A coin should show up. It may and be un-recognized. Thus I exclude.

#14, 19, 20, 22 + 23 — Fine if they show up. but due to differences in grading I believe they are currently counted

#15 - The Illinois Bowie specimen - I doubt been where it is but I believe it is in the Norweb Collection - You might try checking this out. Norweb owns the "Cleveland Plain Dealer" and Mrs Norweb is the Collector.

#16 - NW 51st Sale - This coin is a deep dark secret - I believe it was purchased by B Jon Hanson - Hanson does Not want to share information with Plans such as You and Me He only wants You to give him info so he can use it for his own purposes.

#17 - 8/61 Kelly ANA Sale - I doubt this coin was UNC - Kelly was Notorious for over grading Sort of an Southern Guy Kagin. This may or may Not be previously accounted for.

#18 - Paramount 2/75 I believe this is the Miles Coin You might Check the Catalogue 17 18

#21 - Have No idea where this Coin is - May be or May Not be accounted for.

This I have now Given you as further Information on the 1831 — the Illinois one

Warm Mare.

Good to hear from you so promptly

Regards

1831 C-1
Circ. Strikes

:	6/12	Chapman-Earle #3652	(14)	
	8/54	Davis-Graves #110	(15)	
	6/58	NN Sirt #205 - "only 3 unc known - bronzed & mint"	(16)	
	8/61	Kelly-ANA #1395	(17)	
	1/73	Kagin #211	(7).	
C	3/68	Merkin (xf-au) #140 ; Picker ? ;	(3).	
F	6/46	Mehl-Atwater #153;	(1)	ASC
	5/73	Wat Smith FPL - "near best of 11 known"	(6) +	
	2/75	Paramount #86	(18)	
	5/75	Worldwide (rev scrs)	(2) +	
F	7/33	Chapman #1618 ;	(19)	
	1/39	Bluestone #326 ;	(20)	
	11/54	Stacks Dupont #118 ; 3/75 Stacks-Tad #249 ; Liedman ;	(5).	EJM
	10/63	Stacks-Walton #72 9 digs rev 1 dig obv EF ; ; 3/80 ? to SF VF30 punches	(12).	SF
	3/67	Merkin #126 x Farouk ? - 21.1 grains, = to Anderson-Dupont;	(21)	
	4/69	Stacks-Miles #40 (EF); ; J Cogan VF20 rev dam;	(2) +	ASC
	3/72	Stacks #528; 10/72 ASC FPL #1; various ;	(4). 22.8 grains	GCB
	1975	Shaker Coin Shop over the counter to	(9).	JRM
	11/79	B&R-Garrett #27 (rev nick) (21.5 grains)	(13).	GCB
F	6/18	Chapman-Jackman #886	(22)	
VG	6/32	Elder (VG10) #2732	(23)	

Plus (per RSC):

VF30	Ex Chatham	(6) +	RT
VF20	?	(8).	? S. Kaplan
AU 50	?	(10).	? L. Rogers
VF20	?	(11).	Schoenbaum

10/63 Stacks #72 Walton - "Formerly a proof, now XF, cleaned, with 9 digs on the reverse and 1 on the obverse." Must be Steve Fischer's

Breen - Proof Book - page 25 - "Three uncirculated and half a dozen worn 1831 half cents remain"
page 52 - --- 8 or 10 business strikes" Ignore this BULLSHIT

PRAIC
44036

11/25/81

Dear Roger,

Frank Wilkinson (remember him?) called earlier this month and said someone named Phil Branson (sp) owned a VF25 1831. I've no idea who Phil is. This may be another missing link.

Steve Fischer was kind enough to send me the results of the recent Whist match in Pittsburgh. He did not restrict the info and I've enclosed a copy for your records. Jim may not be ready to challenge you yet but he is starting to close the gap. There is a lot of talk about a massive "happening" in Pittsburgh in December but I don't have particulars yet.

I can use multiple copies of your Second Edition. Please send whatever number of copies make up a dealer order and bill me. At least one autographed copy for my library would be nice.

My best to Debbie et al

Gene

12/26/81

Gene C. Brady
P.O. Box 965
Elyria O 44036

Dear Gene:

Have yours of 11/25/81 and as usual it takes me a month to answer.

I have no record of the 1831 owned by a Phil Brown (age) However somewhere in the back reaches of my mind I think I read the name but in what context I don't know.

The Book is now at the Printers What a struggle! but delivery of bound copies will ~~that is~~ not occur until the end of January so the Publication date has been moved to January 31, 1982. I myself also add that I will be sending you a Complimentary Copy to in some way thank you for your help over the years. When it comes to Multiple orders such as you mentioned in your letter of 11/25 I ask you to reorder after 2/1/82. The Pricing of the book is as follows

Full Price	35.00
Price to EAC Members after 2/1/82	30.00
" " " " before 2/1/82	25.00
Price in lots of 12 or more	21.00 Each

Plus Shipping.

The first edition taught me a lot about the book Market. I'm determined to try to keep my book out of the Hands of the discounters who play all types of games over the Price. I'm sure you realize I derive much more satisfaction out of selling one Copy to a Person who is interested than

selling 100 copies to some person who is just going to sell them. This philosophy seems to have worked as the majority of my present orders have come from persons who have the Final Edition.

I'm enclosing a copy of my page proof of 1804 #6. This is before the photos. I didn't include any state. I doubt there is enough paper but I hope you will agree with the presentation. Keep in mind that I don't want to overwhelm a new reader with detail. I also want an advanced collector such as yourself to feel free to write more if you desire to. I believe good drawings of the states of the reverse die from yours or my collection will be a logical step to put put in "Penny-Wise" or any other publication you may desire.

This is all for now

Sincerely

Bryan

DENE L. BRAND
P.O. Box 956
Elyria, Ohio 44036

10/10/82

Dear Roger.

I'm looking forward to receiving a copy of your book in the near future. Your selling philosophy seems to be right on for something as specialized as Half Cents. Case in point - I've refused to order the "other" book because it will be available soon for a lot less. I do like to keep a extra copies on hand in case I run into someone who needs the book but 12 copies is more than I can carry since I'm traveling and don't get to too many gatherings or shows any more. In any case, please send three (3) extra copies when available. My check is enclosed. No rush!

Sam Ungar's letter to the editor in the current Coin World says a lot but leaves much more unsaid. I'm sure most of us agree with him concerning your efforts and book. Now I can't wait to read it.

The 1804 #6 page proof is super. I probably would have included die state descriptions for the major states and really confused the beginning collector. Why do you feel drawings would be better than photos in an article expounding on the die states? We really should get a group of us together and compare coins. Maybe at EAC? If I can make it.

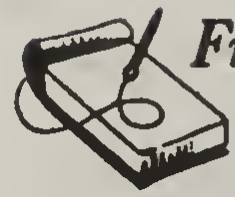
Can you divulge who has the high condition (unc?) specimen without the breaks? Sounds like a Roger coin. The Condition Census surprises me - the coin is offered fairly frequently in AU or Unc. Some of them must be better than EF.

Frank must have told you I've been trying to contact the Norwels. I wrote on November 26. Mrs. Norwel wrote back on December 4 saying her health was bad and her eyesight failing, suggesting her son would be glad to help. I wrote to him on December 5 and haven't heard a word. Maybe the holidays got in the way. If I don't hear something in a month I may call but it doesn't look good. He has no real reason to volunteer the info.

No new finds or research or tales recently.

Time for me to go pack for another exciting week

Sincerely,
Dene



From the desk of

Elyria, Ohio 44036

GENE BRAIG

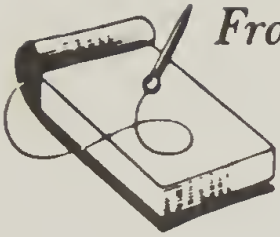
3/20/83

ROGER-

SUE AND I ARE BUYING A NEW HOUSE AND I'VE BEEN OFFERING MY DUPLICATE 1831 (EX RSC FPL) AT 6½K - THOSE INTERESTED DON'T HAVE $ RIGHT NOW. I'M OFFERED 5½K FIRM THRU LAST WEDNESDAY AND JACK ROBINSON COUNTERED AT 6.0K (CHECK COMING 3/25/83±). I'D PREFER TO SELL TO SOMEONE (ANYONE) ELSE. MIGHT YOU BE INTERESTED AT $6½K? TIMING, OBVIOUSLY, IS CRITICAL. IT'S CURRENTLY SEMI-OVERPRICED AT THAT LEVEL BUT THE NEAR-TERM POTENTIAL IS, I THINK, FIVE FIGURE.

Gene

(H) 216-365-4244
(W) 216-329-1356 (8-4:00)



From the desk of

GENE BRAIG

MARCH 26, 1983

ROGER,

IT WAS GREAT TALKING WITH YOU THE OTHER NIGHT. THANKS FOR CALLING. I DID FORGET TO ASK YOU TO KEEP ME IN MIND IF YOU EVER WANT TO SELL YOUR DUPLICATE 1831.

AS YOU REQUESTED, A COPY OF THE COIN WORLD ARTICLE ON THE 1831'S IS ENCLOSED. THE PICTURE DIDN'T COPY WELL - SORRY.

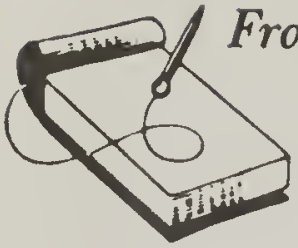
I DID WRITE TO STACK'S AND POINT OUT YOU HAD NOTED THE RECUT "HALF CENT" FOR 1828 IN BOTH TEXTS. WILL LET YOU KNOW IF AND WHAT THEY RESPOND.

KEEP BUSY.

Gene

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. BOX 965
Elyria, Ohio 44036

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44036



From the desk of

GENE BRAIG

10/9/83

DEAR ROGER,

JUST A NOTE TO SAY "HI"! IT'S BEEN OVER A HALF YEAR AND I'M STARTING TO GET LONELY. WE'RE IN THE NEW HOME AND SEMI-SETTLED. HOPEFULLY THE OLD HOUSE WILL SELL IN A MONTH OR SO.

THE ONLY MEANINGFUL HALF CENT I SOLD TO RAISE CASH WAS THE DUPLICATE 1831, WHICH I NOW MISS LIKE A LOST SISTER. KEEP ME IN MIND IF AND WHEN YOUR DUPLICATE BECOMES AVAILABLE.

BEYOND THAT, WHAT'S HAPPENING? IT'S AMAZING HOW CONTACTS ARE BROKEN WHEN YOU STOP WRITING AND SPENDING (NOT NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER).

Gene

10/18/83

Gene Braig
Po Box 965
Elyria O 44036

Dear Gene,

Here's a Note to you. I haven't stopped Writing and you spent Not to Much on Coins I had for Sale. I'd remember March 1980 to be Exact.

1805 #2 after Montgomery Passed.
and.
1797 #3b – as you remarked "What a Clean Blanket"

I'm still turning out the CC as I know it for Ron Guth up to 1800 Now.

The Breen – Collins Fiasco is supposedly being Printed in Japan. "Price is 40% less" Last I heard was that the book had been Printed in Japanese and it was back to ground zero again. Perhaps Breen is waiting for the 50th anniversary of when he announced in 1952 that he was working on a Half Cent book!

Seriously – Who did you sell your 1831 to? – Remember it was ex BSC. I'm not interested in how Much you got for it.

Thanks alot for Now –

Bob Green

GENE E. GRAIG
P.O. BOX 365
Elyria, Ohio 44036

11/5/83

Dear Roger,

Thanks for the note. I didn't mean to imply you weren't writing to me because I hadn't spent enough with you. What I really meant was I've heard from virtually none of the clan since going inactive earlier in the year. Out of cash, out of sight, out of mind that sort of thing.

You missed a couple of my purchases from you. Back in 3/77 (Chicago) I bought the 6th 1794 C6 and in 3/80 your duplicate 1804 C6 die state #4. The 1804 C6 went to A. Prouard in trade a year later but I've still got the 1794.

I'm really enjoying the articles on the CC. Better be careful, too, or old what's his name will ~~[illegible]~~ plagarize and postpone publishing for another half century. Your next revision (every decade, right?) will probably be out first at the rate he's going.

The 1831 went to the last person I wanted to have it - Jack Robinson. Money speaks! I needed cash and he had it. Three weeks later Butch Evans would have bought it with proceeds from his 1982 no mintmark dimes. Timing is everything. Wonder if Jack's going to offer it for sale.

Here's another Norweb bait for your files. Nothing ever came of my contacting them. Guess the Elyria ties have been broken for years.

A recent note from Dr. Lee states "I got an 1831 original business strike VF+, sharpness of all but has 7 small dings on rev." It sounds like Steve has started to move out some of the good stuff! That transaction took me completely by surprise. Sounds like Steve has decided not to compete or he has a line on a decent one.

Can you read Japanese?

Regards,

Gene

From the desk of

GENE BRAIG

GENE BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Fairlawn, Ohio 44334

1/11/84

ROGER -

VERY LATE STATE 1805 C4 ?

NOT MINE.

ALSO NOT AUTHENTIC !

WHAT WAS USED TO MAKE THE INDENTATION WITHOUT DAMAGING THE RIM OR EDGE ?

12/84 Barry Abrahamson
HW Cain

Gene

GENE [illegible]
P. [illegible]
[illegible] 4036

1/29/84

DEAR ROGER,

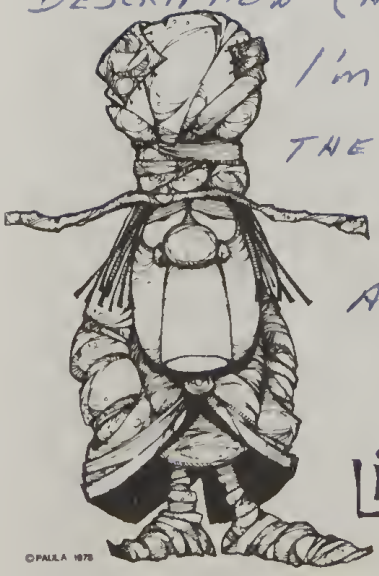
RE "THE TOP TEN - PART 4"

THE 1795 C-4 IN EF40 EX. SPINK'S "CARNEGIE" AND B&M "BROWN" DOES NOT RESIDE WITH THIS OHIO COLLECTOR. MY $1800 BID WAS FOR A COIN "AU55 IF NOT FULLY MS60." AFTER I GRADED IT EF40 AND TWO OTHER OHIO EAC'ERS SAID VF35 OR EF40 (AND JRM CONFIRMED), I RETURNED IT FOR A COMPLETE REFUND. FOR MY EFFORTS, B&M BLACK-BALLED ME. I'M NOW OFF THEIR MAILING LIST, PERSONA NON GRATA.

CAN YOU SEND ME A COPY OF THE SPINK'S DESCRIPTION (AND THE PRICE REALIZED). SINCE I'M IN THIS DEEP, I MAY PERSUE THE MATTER WITH ANA.

YEAH, THINGS ARE ROUGH ALL OVER.

Gene



LIFE IS A FOUR LETTER WORD

2/4/84

Dear Clive

Got your of 1/29/84 and have duly noted that you do not own the B+M (Ex Carnegie) 1795 #4. However have you taken leave of your senses! Consider the coin despite the usual type which Queen Vorid is famous for.

1 The coin is condition census. This is a +

2 The current Red Book price for an EF (ANA Grading Scale) (VF-30 Sheldon Scale) is $1750

Discounting this by 1/3 the usual dealer markup gives us $1167 for VF-30 plus approx 40% for EF-40 gives us $1633 plus another 50% for condition census makes the coin ~~worth~~ in my judgement a $2450- coin.

You of course are the ultimate judge and the actions against you by B+M are what I would expect. This type of conduct is unfortunately all to prevelent in commercial field. Im not defending B+M but I consider you to be a knowledgable Half Cent Collector and you should have known the pattern of type including overgrading that big name firms use. I very seldom bid on any coin in a big name firm unless I am familiar with the coin. Perhaps you should read my section on VALUE Page VII particularly the last paragraph which ends on Page VIII.

I do not have the Spinks Carnegie Sale Catalogue but suggest that Bob Guth may have it. His new address is c/o Florida Coin Exchange in Lexington K.Y. - Look in "The Numismatist" for the address.

The only new item to report are

1 New 1794 #3b - You'll probably hear JRM + Fischer have it.

2 New 1794 #4b VG-10, Collector in Kansas.

3 The owner of the 2nd 1794 #5b is a new Half Cent Specialist who lives in Mississippi. He is working on this one. If I get it I'll

only Need 1794 #6b

(4) New 1795 #2b in 6-4 which I sold to Bob Guell

(5) 10th Specimen of 1804 #2 overall 6-6 which is in My Collection.

(6) I Now have the Fischer 1808 #1 which I'm try to trade for a Number of High grade Specimen - The Condition of the #1 Causes Problems.

I enjoyed the Investment analysis from the Private Coin Collector the only thing I ask is that investors stay out but I guess its like asking the Tide Not to Come in but eventually the Tide goes out.

Good hearing from you

Sincerely
Roger

44036

04/03/84

DEAR ROGER,

THANK FOR THE LONG LETTER AND YOUR INSIGHT. I VALUE YOUR OPINION ON THE 95 #4, AM FAMILIAR WITH THE "VALUE" SECTION IN YOUR BOOK AND STILL THINK THE RIGHT DECISION WAS MADE. NOTE THE NUMBER OF GRADING COMPLAINTS IN P.W AND WHO THEY'RE DIRECTED TOWARD. A LOT OF US SHOULD MAKE A STAND.

MY LOGIC - $2,000 FOR AN AU55 IF NOT FULLY MS60 POORLY STRUCK VARIETY HIGH IN THE CONDITION CENSUS IS AN ABSOLUTE RIP. THE SAME PRICE FOR ANYTHING LESS, ESPECIALLY A VF35-XF45 TYPICAL PIECE IS ± MARGINAL, EITHER DIRECTION.

I UNDERSTAND THE NEW 1794-3B WENT TO BILL W. WONDER IF JIM KOENINGS STILL HAS HIS. THE NEW 1794-4B WENT TO BOB YUELL? BY NOW YOU'VE MANAGED TO PRY THE 1808 #1 LOOSE?

MY RECENT ACTIVITY = -0-. WILL BE OUT OF THE WOODS AND BUILDING AGAIN BY THE END OF JUNE, HOPEFULLY. MISSED EAC DUE TO WORK SCHEDULE - OVER 14 HOURS LAST SATURDAY. OUCH!

SINCERELY,

Gene

4/6/84

10 Days to go!

Dear Dave

Thanks for the clippings on Mrs Norweb. She seems to have had a rather full life and sufficient $ to make it rather pleasant. Perhaps the coins will appear in due time. Save your $. The Starr estate only took since 1971 to hit the market.

I note your powers of rational are equal or exceed my own in regard to the 1795 #4. Recently I got a copy of a Rare Coin Review that evident suffers from ~~Diarrhea~~ Diarrhea of the typewriter. There is a good word known as LOGORRHEA which describes the Queen Dowd perfectly. I also plan to make use of this word when and if I ever get a chance to review the "37 promises of a book"

I warn at EAC I just could not leave. Next year is planned for April 11th in Chicago so I guess I'll have to pass again.

A brief run down of the 1794 $ "GIRLS" as Webber calls them.

3 $
1. BSC, Ex Gross
2. Webber, Ex JRM
3. Koenigs, - Still holding at 10,000 +

4 $
1. Webber, Ex W.K. Raymond
2. BSC, Ex W.K. Raymond
3. Bob Yuell, Ex Demling - R. Gross
4. JRM, Ex Numerous Coin Auctions

5 $
1. Webber, Ex W.K. Raymond, B+R Sumner 1975 FPL - Guth screamed this up on the CC as published in R.W. he has it as an AU-50 #5a.

2. Currently with a Mississippi Collector of Various coin not a HALF CENT specialist

I'm WORKING ON IT! - 13

6 $
1. AND ONLY Webber, Ex W.K. RAYMOND, BLAISDEL, LAHRMAN COLLECTION

2. Coin MOUNTED BY GUTH

Kind of Ran out of Paper on the last Page:

The 1808 #1 is currently in My Possession. It's the one that is ex F. Borchardt, S Fischer, R Gross. JJ Teaparty AA in C W last summer. I owne Rickey a bundle for it and I don't Plan to Sell until its Paid for.

Ill close Now as I too am Ending a 14 hour day at 1 AM 4/7/84

Sincerely

Roger

American Numismatic Association
Post Office Box 2366 · Colorado Springs · Colorado 80901-2366
(303) 632-2646

EDWARD C. ROCHETTE, CAE
Executive Vice President

May 11, 1984

Mr. Gene C. Braig
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, OH 44036

Dear Mr. Braig:

We have received a response to our letter in regard to your complaint against Bowers and Merena Galleries.

Mr. Merena advised that when the two coins were returned to them, they were personally examined and it was agreed that they were accurately graded. It was felt that the grading as listed in the catalog was properly listed and that the lower grade was neither fair to the coin or to the consignor.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Rochette
Executive Vice President

ECR/py

cc: Mr. Ray Merena

GENE [illegible]
P.O. [illegible]
Elyria, Ohio [illegible]

[illegible]/20/84

DEAR ROGER,

THE ONGOING SAGA WITH B+M CONTINUES AND FINALLY RESPONDED BUT WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE WITH A RESPONSE THAT SAYS NOTHING (NO SURPRISES, SO FAR). WISH I HAD THE TIME TO TRAIL COPPER COINS DAVE HAS SOLD THAT HAVE SOLD AGAIN SINCE. IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO LIST GRADES FROM PRE-DAVE, DAVE, POST-DAVE TO SEE IF ANYONE ELSE EVEN APPROACHES THE QUEEN'S OPINION. GREED!

YOU'LL HAVE TO DEFINE LOGORRHEA FOR ME. MY RESEARCH HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. IT'S 99.4% PROBABLE I'M IN AGREEMENT, THO.

THANX FOR THE RUN DOWN ON THE "B GIRLS." I'M BEGINNING TO REGRET NOT PURCHASING WKR'S 5-PIECE OFFERING WAY BACK WHEN.

I'M INTERESTED IN THE 1808 #1 IF YOU EVER DECIDE TO BREAK IT FREE.

MY RECENT ACTIVITY HAS BEEN -0- EXCEPT FOR AN 1904 #6 DIE STATE #8 WITH EVIDENCE IN THE FORM OF A DIE CRACK OF THE STATE #9 BREAK. NEVER NOTICED THAT BEFORE. THE SECOND CRACK FROM O OR OF APPEARS TO START AS EARLY AS STATE #5 OR #6 (LOW GRADE EXAMPLES ARE A PAIN!).

SINCERELY,
Gene

THE SECRET TO SUCCESS: ALWAYS BE THE SCREWOR and NEVER THE SCREWEE

GENE BRAIG
PO BOX 965
ELYRIA OHIO
44036

12/2/84

Dear Gene,

No, I'm not a turncoat. What has happened is a typical example of the level of honesty ~~to~~ of the Group which considers ~~itself~~ themselves to be the premier Numismatists of the United States

Enclosed is a copy of the letter which I sent ~~you~~ The language which I used was deliberately tame. There are many subtle references to things of the past. The first one which you should be aware of is that Jack Collins and Walter consider me to be an illiterate so I just gave it to them

I think what has occurred is an excellent lesson for those who are interested What do you think of them now?

Sincerely
Roger.

P.S. I am writing this in New York where I am attending the ANS Conference. I met Mr Henry Norweb here and find that he is very interested in Coins. There are no present plans to sell any of his Mathers holdings but plans can change.

From the desk of

GENE BRAIG

GENE BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44036

12/22/84

DEAR ROGER,

HAPPY NEW YEAR. HOPE IT'S GREAT.

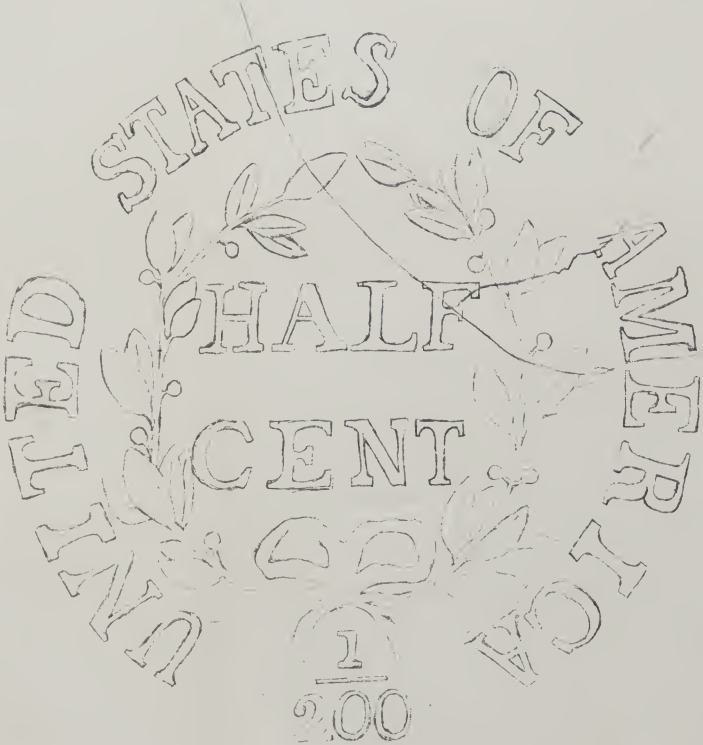
OK - YOU'RE NOT A TURNCOAT NEVER REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE - JUST HAVING SOME FUN. YOUR LETTER DID NOT CHANGE MY OPINION OF THAT GROUP. IT'S ALREADY LOW.

YOUR LETTER DID CHANGE SOMETHING, THO. I LAUGHED SO HARD AT IT (SORRY) THAT I SOILED MY SHIT. I'LL SEND YOU THE CLEANING BILL.

THANKS FOR THE INSIGHT AND A GOOD LAUGH.

SINCERELY,

Gene



1804
C-1

CRACK TO FIRST
A OF AMERICA

2/4/25

DEAR ROGER,

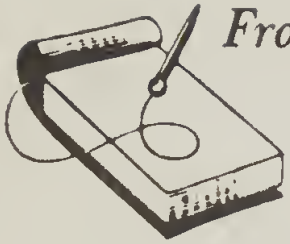
AS NOTED BY MILT PFEFFER MANY ISSUES OF P/W AGO.

ACQUIRED YESTERDAY AT A COMMERCIAL ONE-DAY SHOW.

UNDER THE SCOPE, THE CRACK MAY EXTEND BEYOND THE A, FROM THE CROSSBAR AREA, TO THE RIM. NOT ENOUGH COIN / STRIKE PRESSURE OR KNOWLEDGE ON MY PART TO TELL FOR SURE.

RIM DING IS ON THE COIN (DURA).

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44036



From the desk of

GENE BRAIG

SATURDAY
3/19/88

ROGER -

A COIN ARRIVED TODAY - YOUR PRESSING ENCLOSED. IT WAS ADVERTISED AS "NICE COLOR, PROBLEM FREE FINE, R7 FOR CONDITION." SUPPOSEDLY FROM AN OLD COLLECTION IN NORTHERN (IS THERE ANY OTHER ?) MAINE.

EDGE LETTERING IS SMALL (DURN).

BULGE (?) AFTER THE 4 IS THERE BUT DOESN'T SHOW IN PRESSING. ONLY 92.3 GRAINS.

JRM RAPED ME FOR A 95-2B TWO WEEKENDS AGO. COUNT = 87.

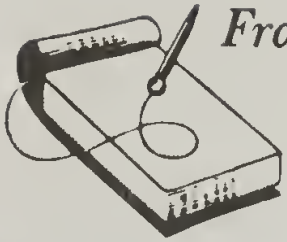
THANKS FOR RESPONDING TO LANNY. MAYBE HE'LL EASE UP ON ME A LITTLE NOW.

GINO SANFILIPPO (LOCAL TYPE COLLECTOR) SHOWS SIGNS OF BEING A BUYER. HE BOUGHT 50 DIFFERENT HALF CENTS FROM MARK AND JACK AND IS CHASING. HE JUST GOT AN MS (I DON'T THINK IT IS) 12 STAR WITH 10-15% RED SHOWING PARTIAL LINES ON STAR #1.

NOW, GO BACK TO YOUR TAXES.

Gene

GENE C. BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44036



From the desk of

GENE BRAIG

07/11/87

DEAR ROGER,

JOHN WRIGHT, FRANK WILKINSON AND I SPENT LAST WEEKEND IN PA VIEWING AND MAKING PHOTOS OF A COLLECTION. WE STARTED AT DAN HOLMES' FOR THE 1834 N7 FROM THE BROWN SALE. SUPER!

WHILE JOHN AND FRANK HANDLED THE CAMERA, I TOOK NOTES FROM THE ENVELOPES. THE ENVELOPE GRADE IS GENERALLY HIGHER THAN THE ORIGINAL TRANSACTION GRADE ON THE FEW PIECES I COULD TRAIL. I'D GRADE MOST LOWER. THAT STILL PUTS THE BULK INTO "NICE" MORE THAN TWO NOTCHES.

THE LIST IS NOT FOR PUBLICATION. PLEASE USE IT PRIVATELY. IT WAS NOT SUBMITTED TO THE P/W SURVEY.

MY ONLY RECENT ACQUISITION IS A SCUDZY 1803 #2 - CRACK THRU C OF AMERICA. MANY HOURS OF WORK AND DAYS OF BATH DISCLOSED NUMEROUS PROBLEMS UNDER THE CRUD. OUCH

WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR SALE?

Gene

JRM 07/04/87

93-1	II	45	07/81 B&R #1753
-1	IV	63+	07/84 Knightsbridge, Eng.
-2	I	45	11/82 Shimkus
-3	II	65	06/84 Reiver (Barefoot)
-4	II	30 CLND	Boozer-Weaver
94-1A	II	60 (#5)	12/82 Shimkus
-1B	II	35 (#1)	05/86 Palmer
-2A	I	40	04/81 Erlichman
-2B	I	7 (F/Poor)	02/85 Boisvert
-3A	II	15	G. Houston
-4A	III	65	01/82 Forman
-4B	II	10 (F/Poor, Dam 3 of 4)	12/82 Shimkus
-5A	I	55 (#3 tie)	02/86 Stowe
-6A	VI	12	02/78 Wilkinson
-7	I	40 (#6)	02/83 Robinson
-8	IV	20 (#6)	01/83 Katman
-9	IV	65	01/82 Forman
95-1	II	63+ (63/65)	03/86 Stack's #788
-2A	I	60+	07/83 Stack's #520
-2B	IV	15 (VF/Poor)(#3)	01/83 Katman
-3	I	30 (#3)	04/82 Tett
-4	II	60	09/75 Stack's #6
-5A	II	50	07/81 B&R #1758
-5B	II	65 (#1)(S76B)	07/80 G. Szyati
-6A		7 (S26?)	03/83
-6A	II	60+	09/86 Superior #3012
-6B	II	40 (S78?)	03/85 Boisvert
96-1	II	63 (#3)	04/82 Tett
-2	I	65	04/82 Tett
97-1	I	40 TAL	11/76 Raymond
-1	IX	45 TAL	11/77 B&R #2048
-2	IV	55	01/86 B&M #1334
-2	IV	40 (TAL #3 tie)	09/85 Superior #121
-3A	V	40 (#4)	11/82 Shimkus
97-3B	II	30	04/81 Erlichman
00-1		8 (L.C.)	05/85 Numisco (ANA 150 #910)
00-1	III	65	05/81 Lone Star
02-1		8	12/83 Lauder #250
-2	IV	25 (#5)	11/73 Jess Peters
-2		8 (L.C.)	04/85 Harmer-Rooke #7
03-1	VI	62	07/78 Terranty
-2	III	10	09/80 Superior #32
-2	VI	20 (#4)	Guth
-2	VII	20	02/87 B&M #2462
-3	VIII	55	06/82 Terranova
-4	II	40	05/82 Stack's
04-1	V	45 (#6)	03/79 Raymond
-2	II	6	12/78 Loring
-4	I	30 (#2)	12/75 Pones
-5	I	55	04/79 St. Claire
-5	V	30	02/74 Watts
-6	III	45	07/79 Boisvert
-6	V	45	12/81 Eder
-6	VII	25	07/77 Gross
-6	IX	40	03/81 Rowe
-6	X	50	03/80 J. Marcelli
-6	XI	45	11/79 Braig
-6	XIII	50	11/79 Braig
-6	XIV	40	02/74 Watts
-6	XV	55	07/79 M. Levy
-7	III	55	04/81 J. Wright
-7	VI	30 (ef/sca)	02/74 Watts
-7	VIII	12	05/81
-8	IV	63	06/84 A. Kruizer
-8	VII	45	11/75 Paramount #8
-8	V	60+	10/84 Stack's #437
-9	III	65 (#4)	03/79 Raymond
-9	VII+	63	05/79 J. Kern
-10	I	65	01/81 Leidman
-11	V	40 (#3)	10/79 Weber

04-12	I	65	04/79 Bland
-13	III	65	03/81 Tett
-13		30 (Rev Margin)	08/76 Lusk
05-1	I	65	03/80 Cohen
-2	II	12 (#7)(12/15)	04/76 Flynn
-3	II	12* (12/15)	05/85 Stack's #73
-4	VI	55	04/86 Stack's #35
06-1	II	65 (#4)	06/81 Tett
-2	III	55 (#4)	08/85 Tett
-3	II	10 (#7)	12/75 M. Stutt
-3	IV	7	12/75 M. Stutt
-4	II	65	07/79 Beymer
07-1	III	63	09/84 Marca #44
08-2	I	35	10/73 Carolina Coin
08-3	I	55	01/79 Poyette
09-1	II	40 (#1 tie-asc)	J. Guilde
-2	III+	55	03/75 Stack's #841
-3	III	65	01/81 Tett
-4	II	63	06/75 Raymond
-5	III	65	01/82 Bernd
-6	II	60	02/73 Watts
10-1	III+	65	07/80 Swanowitz
11-1	I	20	11/75
-1	4*	50 (#1 tie)	09/82 Bland
-2	II	45	01/81 Leidman
--		PR65 Michael	06/85 Terranova
25-1	III	63	07/85 Stack's #1511
-2	III	60+	11/86 Siegel #6
26-1	IV	65	12/83 Lauder #276
-2	II	45	07/75 Republic
-2	V	30	11/83 Fischer
28-1	II	65 (#4)	04/77 Paramount #33
-2	II	65	09/85 Superior #188
-3	III	65+	02/79 Leblanc
29-1	III	65	05/84 G. Harris
31-1		PR65	01/84 G. Harris
32-1	I	63+	T. Werner
-2	I	65	01/81 Tett
-2		PR65	08/84 Jelensni (Estate)
-3	II	63	12/83 Lauder #282
33-1	IV	63	12/78 S. Weinberg
34-1		PR67	03/82 Weber
-1		67	06/79 Fitzgerald
35-1		67	06/81 Superior #22
-2		67	06/85 Stack's #2
36 orig		PR65+	11/82 Tett
40-B1A*		PR65	03/86 D. Voccia
-B3		PR65	02/87 A. Lustig
43-B1A		PR65+	07/84 G. Harris
46-B1*		PR65	03/86 D. Voccia
47-B1A*		PR65	03/86 D. Voccia
48-B2		PR65+	08/85 Leidman
49-B2*		PR65+	07/84 Tower
49-1	II	63	02/83 Ana-Ivy #62
50-1	II	63	07/83 Borenerdt
51-1	III	65	01/82 Kruger #1011
52-B2		PR63+	08/85 Ana Heritage #47
53-1	III	63	12/82 Ivy #17
54-1	I	63	05/80 Steinmetz
54-B2		63	10/86 Gold
55-1	II	65+	01/81 Leidman
56-B2A		67	04/79 Dec. Valley
56-B2c		PR65	10/86 Stack's #5
57-1		63	05/80 Steinmetz
57-B2		PR65+	10/86 D. Chiarmesino

MASS.

'87	1D	50		'87	6A	55
	2A	45			6D	50
	3A	45		'88	1A	45
	4B	60			1B	63
	4C	60+			1B	50 CAK 2ND 8
	5A	60				
	5A	50	RIM CUD U			
	5A	20	+ BANS S. CLIP			

GENE . BRAIG
P.O. Box 965
Elyria, Ohio 44036

1/3/89

ROGER —

HERE'S WIGGLESWORTH —

WHERE'S GHATT ?

Gene

Scratch Pad

1. Take a Memo
or
2. Design a Game

Courtesy of your friends at
"The Pinball Trader Newsletter"
and ***Printing by Gene-Del Inc.***
P.O. Box 440922
Brentwood MO 63144

4/6/89

P.O. Box 915
Lewis, Ohio 44064

ROGER -

WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR INPUT WHEN TIME ALLOWS. IF YOU'RE NOT TOO BUSY. C'mon, SLOW DOWN A LITTLE.

THESE WERE DERIVED FROM:

1. MY HOLDINGS AND NOTES
2. YOUR HOLDINGS AND NOTES
3. FRANK'S PHOTOS
4. BS BOOK (AS THE BASIS) (SORRY FOR THAT)

I HOPE TO PUBLISH SOMETHING SOME TIME AFTER EAC. THESE AREN'T QUITE COMPLETE - I LACK SOME SMALL CRACKS, ETC.: DOUBLE CRACK O OF OF; FINAL ZERO CRACK TO RIM; THIRD CRACK OVER M BEFORE THE CUD; ?

CONVINCE ME THE PERFECT REVERSE EXISTS. THAT DIE CRACKED DURING HARDENING.

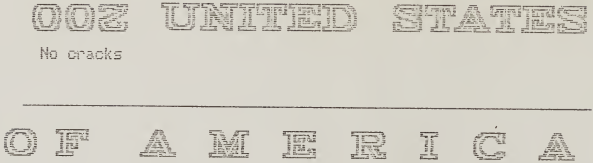
Gene

Scratch Pad

1. Take a Memo
or
2. Design a Game

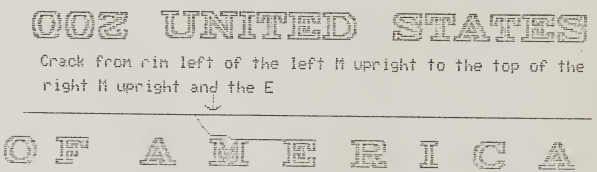
Courtesy of your friends at
"The Pinball Trader Newsletter"
and **Printing by Gene-Del Inc.**
P O Box 440922
Brentwood MO 63144

Breen I Kafman @ Braig @ (?)



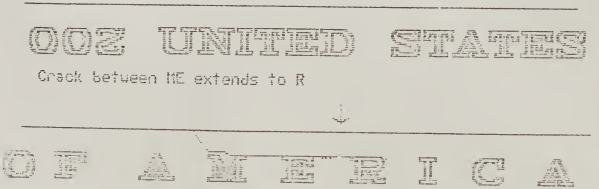
No cracks

Breen II Braig .1



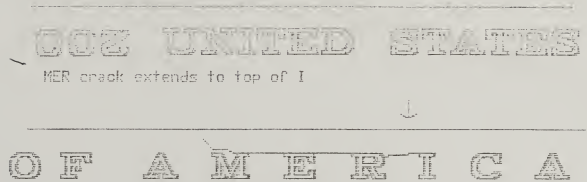
Crack from rim left of the left M upright to the top of the right M upright and the E

Breen II+ Braig .2



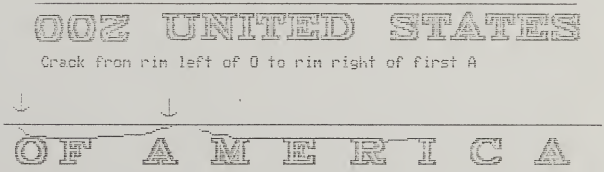
Crack between ME extends to R

Braig .3



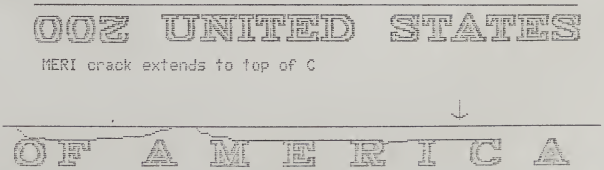
MER crack extends to top of I

Braig .4



Crack from rim left of O to rim right of first A

Braig .5

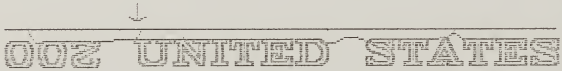


MERI crack extends to top of C

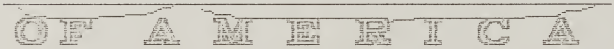
Breen IV Kaiman I Braig I

Crack almost encircles the entire coin, missing the ED, ES, first A and final zero

Braig 1.1



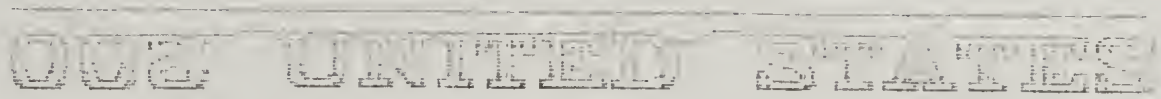
Crack from left U upright to rim
(Double M crack may come first)



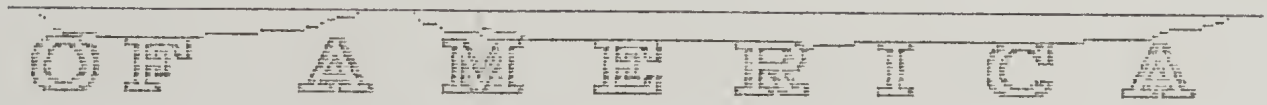
Braig 1.2

Branch crack to rim above M uprights
(May happen before the U to rim crack)

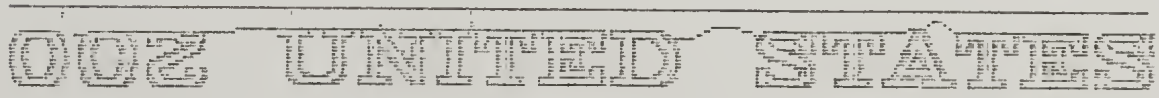
Braig 1.3



Crack from top right of I in UNITED to rim

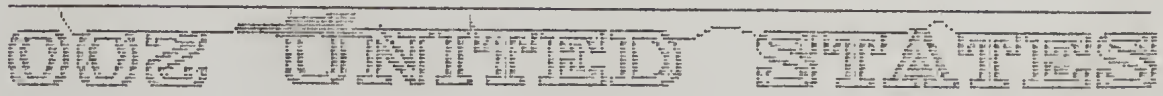


Braig 1.4



Part of rim crack over first A thickens

Breen 5 Katman 2 Braig 2



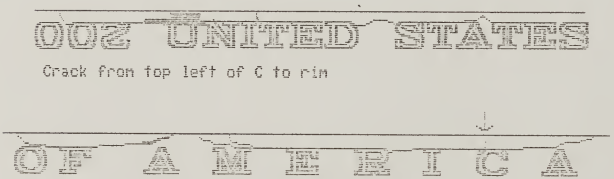
Area over U becomes mushy (start of broken die)

(Difficult to tell when retained cud becomes a cud)

Braig 2.1

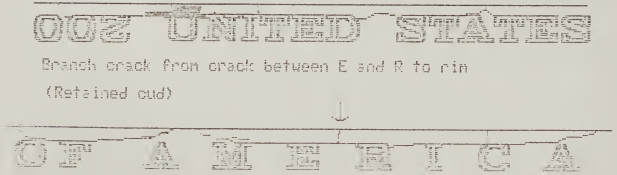
Crack left of A in STATES thickens

Braig 2.2



Crack from top left of C to rim

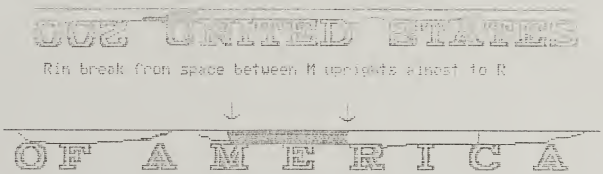
Braig 2.3



Branch crack from crack between E and R to rim

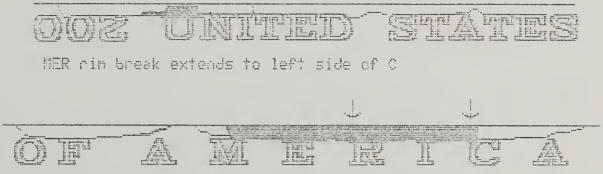
(Retained cud)

Breen VII Katman 3 Braig 3



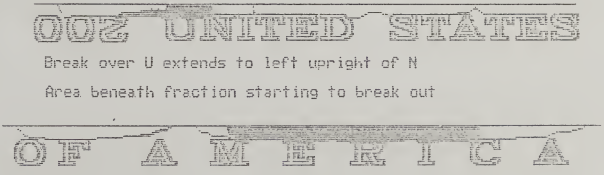
Rin break from space between M uprights almost to R

Breen IX Katman 4 Braig 4



MER rin break extends to left side of C

Braig 4.1



Break over U extends to left upright of N

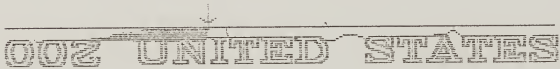
Area beneath fraction starting to break out

Breen X Katman 5 Braig 5

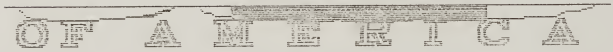
Rim break from U almost covers N

(Area beneath 200 is mushy but not completely broken out)

Braig 5.5



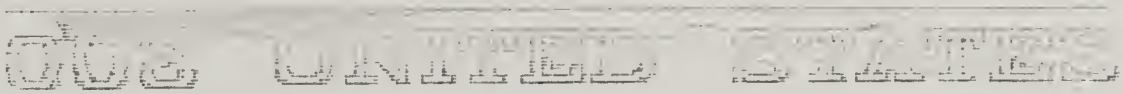
Break covers N completely



Breen XI Katman 6 Braig 6

Triangular rim break over first A toward F

Breen XII (?)

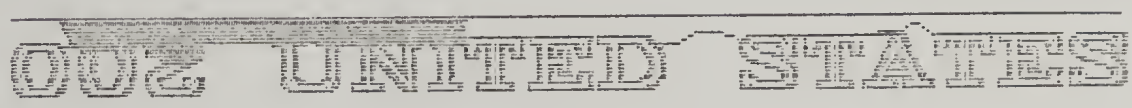


The rim break from MERiC extends to near the right ribbon end (over the final A in AMERICA)

Breen XIII Katman 7 Braig 7

Break over UN extends to cover the I

Breen XIII+ Braig 7.1



Crack from left M upright to rim thickens

Braig 7.2

Area over the M starts to break out

↓

Braig 7.3

A very small space over the M remains unbroken

↓

Breen XIV Katman 8 Braig 8

Break over the M is complete to rim

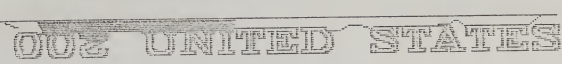
↓

Crack left of O to rim thickens or becomes a break

Breen XV (?)

Triangular crack left of A covers the F

Breen XVI (?) Katman 10



Rim break touches tops of O and F in OF

GENE BRAIG
BOX 334
NORTH OLMSTED, OH 44070

August 21, 1989

Dear Roger,

Thanks again to both you and Debbie for the warm hospitality while Frank and I were there. One of these days I hope to be able to repay you. On top of everything else, you make one heck of a tour guide.

I had hoped to write before now but my life has been typically hectic. So be it. At least now I have something extra to report.

Sold some and bought a few at ANA. My phone bids from I80 did not get to B & M in time for them to enter into the book. The 1794 #5 went to the book and the 1831 restrike to Dr. Lee on the floor. It's probably best that way. I really don't want to start in on the proofs. I did pick up the Shimkus 1794 #5 from Valenziano, a late 1811 #1 from Stack's, a couple of 1793's (Rintz from JRM and another from Teaparty, both slabbed) and some less significant pieces.

My only real disappointment from the trip is that you and I didn't deal. Said another way, I'm unhappy you failed to offer me something(s) I couldn't say no to. Maybe next time? When are you and Carvin going to stop backing up your backups?

Found a copy of Stack's 10/9/76 William H Fenn III sale. Do you need it for your library? Since you plated his 1796's I figured you were probably set but ... .

Gino (GS in the survey) went to a local auction last week and had some competition for the 1806 half cent. Some clown bid him all the way up to $25 before dropping out. Pressing enclosed. The coin shows more LIBERTY than the pressing but it's really not necessary as there is enough date for comparisons. We've got it at AG3 and it's not, to the best of my knowledge, for sale. Gino didn't think it was funny when I dropped my $100 offer to $65 after seeing the coin. Sight unseen, I originally offered to double his money! Who said lightning can't strike Cleveland more than once.

Do you have any of your deluxe or super-deluxe second editions for sale? I may have found an active secondary market but need to show the merchandise to be sure.

Back to the 1806 #3 for a second - I count about 22-23 known now. Is that about right? It's getting harder and harder to keep score with all the new eyes looking for cherries and finding enough to be rewarding.

JRM feels slabbed copper should remain entombed as long as periodic examination shows no sign of deterioration. From the greed viewpoint it appears Wall Street money may be on the brink of discovering nice early copper in a serious way and the smart money feels it would be foolish to eliminate up to 80% of the interest in a piece simply because it's raw. The big boys still may not buy but what they do to the price could be noticeable. And it may be risky to grave-rob now and re-bury later as those who know it all learn something about grading copper.

Frank's recent raise went to his head - he's collecting again. The handfull of British Farthings he picked up at ANA are

really kinda pretty. Here's hoping his attention isn't divided too badly. Maybe this too will pass.

Jack Borckardt bought an electro deal at ANA and wanted an arm and a leg to part with them. There were colonials, Half Cents and large cents, supposedly at an average of over $100/each. Ouch. The 1796 no pole was apparently pre-sold at either $300 or $400. I may be crazy but I wouldn't pay that for one. Gino bought the 1831 original from him for a little over $100 so I've got competition for the fakes now too. I did see the piece (it's nicely done) but passed because of the super one I already have.

You don't have a horned head Mass. Cent for sale, do you? A local collector asked me to pick one up for him.

Don V. took one of my back-up 1804 #5's from me at $600. I'd better be careful or the count may drop beneath the first edition inspired five total. Another lessor piece sold at <$200. A run could be starting. It will be interesting to see how Don offers the expensive one, presuming he doesn't have it pre-sold. A side trip on the way home to photo a 1796 #2 and 1802 #1 saw both my duplicate 1802's, including the one with cent undertype, and the rough 1805 #3 disappear. It's getting too easy to sell copper.

I still haven't found the time to formalize my 1804 #6 notes and submit them to PW. Soon, maybe. Writing long letters takes up too much time. On that happy note ...

Best regards,

Gene

Walter H. Breen
20 Swann Rd
Staten Island N.Y.

c/o DINALER
P.O. BANNER SEAL
BERKELEY CALIF 94705

5/5/73
BOX 352
BERKELEY
CALIF
94701

ROGER S. COHEN, M.
4727 MONTGOMERY LANE
BETHESDA, MD. 20014

7/27/72

Dear Walter,

Recently I while going over Ray Hundley's Collection of Half Cents I noted an 1803 C-4 with the Reverse Die Break. The Coin is in Good Condition and is evenly worn with no defects. The Dealer from Hanover Noted that it had previously been in your Collection. My specific question is, Which one did acquire the Coin at the 4727 Dine Mistake Sale in October 1953? If you will recall this is where I said my original Collection. When I saw the Coin in Hundley Collection I wondered whether it had originally been mine since I had sold it to the Collector Hanover.

I also note that in Stacker Mistake Sale of Sept 1955 there is a similar Coin listed as lot 4C I wonder if this is the same Coin or another?

My recollection tells that I only know of 5 or 6 specimens with this break. I currently have the slab that was in the BS Mistake Collection but am working on getting one I saw in Condition VF 25

I think a stamp set sold additional a wonder

Are you simply wicked if would appreciate

Sincerely,
Roger

5/1/73
Note on
10/22/81

9/3/73

Dear Mr Breen:

I'm going over the recent sale which you Catalogued for Superior (GOLDBERG) on lot 4 You made the following statements:

1 The shattered die of G-4 of 1797 was struck after all the G-3's

2 There were 12,167 Half Cents Coined in 1799

Your first statement has to do with Emission Sequence. and I challenge your statement. I have in my Collection 11 specimens of G-4 and 7 specimens of G-3 I might also add that 5 of the G-4's are VF and Higher and 4 of the G-3's are likewise on Condition. Every G-3 that I have or have seen has the reverse break. ~~all~~ If you have seen a G-3 without the reverse break I would appreciate knowing Where

I'm going over my G-4's I find that I have Various stages of the shattered obverse die on two of my latest state specimens I find the reverse break in evidence but Never as strong as on some of my G-3's. Therefore I challenge your statement

Your second statement of the 1799 Coinage I can only assume that you got this from the Various Mint reports. There as you know [illegible] made up from the "account Book for

the delivery of Cents and half Cents" which is in The National (federal(sic) archives. The final page lists a delivery of 12167 after March 1799 it also lists a Total 1793 Coinage of 31,934 which is the source of Snowdon incorrect 1793 Coinage figure so I feel that anything from this page is suspect.

Further back in the book under date of April 7 1799 the following entry is made.

Cents on hand		8250
half Cents 12,170	making Cents.	6085
		14,335

The account book does Not indicate a delivery it says on Hand. I feel that these were Coined in the spring of 1797 but Not delivered or counted until 1799. I have Noticed in the Past that You have indicated Coinage date as being the delivery date. I do Not think this is Necessarily so. Hence I Question or Challenge You statement on a Coinage of 12,167 Half Cents in 1799.

Our Paths have crossed again on Milton Pfeffers Half cent articles for Penny Wise. I have received a Copy of Your answers. I do Not know if You have received Mine but since PW will be out in less than

2 Weeks you will be able to read my Current thoughts on the 1797 Emission Sequence.

Walter, I am Not writting this letter to be argumentative I want to know facts and I want to make this type of information available to those who are interested. I have solicited your assistance in the Past and have been rejected. I can only point out that my interest in Half Cents will cease only when I die and untill that time I will continue My Present Course.

Sincerely

Roger S Cohen Jr.

October 29, 1973

Roger:

Thanks for returning my call.

Also for your support.

Here's Breen's letter which will appear with yours in next P-W.

Keep up the good work. You're certainly popularizing ½ & with your efforts.

Regards

Warren

ROGER S. COHEN, JR. SPEAKS OUT -

"Dear Mr. Breen:

In going over the recent sale which you catalogued for Superior (Goldberg), on lot 4 you made the following statement:

'1. The shattered die of G-4 of 1797 was struck after all the G-3's.

2. There were 12,167 half cents coined in 1799.'

Your first statement has to do with emission sequence, and I challenge your statement. I have in my collection eleven specimens of G-4 and seven specimens of G-3. I must also add that five of the G-4's are VF or higher and that four of the G-3's are likewise VF or higher. Every G-3 that I have seen has the reverse break. If you have seen a G-3 without the reverse break, I would appreciate knowing where.

In going over my G-4's, I find that I have various stages of the shattered obverse die. On two of my latest state specimens, I find the reverse break in evidence but never as strong as on some of my G-3's. Therefore, I challenge your statement.

In regards to your second statement of the 1799 coinage, I can only assume that you got this from the various Mint reports. These, as you know, were made up from the 'account book for the delivery of cents and half cents' which is in the National Archives. The final page lists a delivery of 12,167 after March, 1799. It also lists a total 1793 coinage of 31,934 which is the source of Snowdon's incorrect 1793 coinage figure, so that I feel anything from this page is suspect.

Further back in the book, under date of April 7, 1799, the following entry is made:

'Cents on hand	8,250
Half cents 12,170, making cents	6,085
	14,335'

The account book does not indicate a delivery. It says 'on hand'. I feel that these were coined in the spring of 1797, but not delivered or counted until 1799. I have noticed in the past that you have indicated the coinage date as being the delivery date. I do not think this is necessarily so. Hence, I question or challenge your statement on a coinage of 12,167 half cents in 1799.

Walter, I am not writing this letter to be argumentative. I want to know the facts, and I want to make this type of information available to those who are interested. I have solicited your assistance in the past and have been rejected. I can only point out that my interest in half cents will cease only when I die. Until that time, I will continue my present course.

Sincerely,

Roger S. Cohen, Jr."

AND WALTER BREEN REPLIES:

"Dear Mr. Cohen:

As for your claim that you have 'solicited my assistance in the past and have been rejected', I do not know what you are talking about. I have no earlier letters from you, and I have no recollection of any verbal requests for 'assistance'. Please specify, and if I have readily accessible information - short of retyping hundreds of pages of archives data or furnishing irreplaceable annotated catalogues or the like - I will be glad to help in the same way that I have helped any number of other EAC people, and on the same basis - viz., that there is no direct commercial consequence, as my contract with FCI forbids it. Requests of that kind have to be cleared through Stanley Apfelbaum.

As for half cents actually being coined (not merely delivered) in the calendar year 1799, not only does R.W.Julian spell it out in The NUMISMATIC SCRAPBOOK Magazine, saying that most of them were overstrikes on cut-down spoiled cents, but the coins themselves bear this out. An especially clear cut instance is a Low Head piece (in one of Lester Merkin's sales of a few years back, if memory serves) overstruck on, of all things, a 1798 S-173. This is from a late state of the obverse die of the half cent, though not the latest known. Proof that it was made in the calendar year 1799 is easy and depends entirely on the chronology of the 1798 cents of this group.

Specifically, the 1798 S-173 was made between 1799/8 NC1 and 1799/8 S-188. The emission sequence is as follows:

1799/8 NC1.	Perfect die reverse.
1798 S-173.	Identical reverse to the above, without and with an injury to die at ER.
1799/8 S-188.	Obverse usually perfect, but also with the famous quadruple break. Reverse perfect, and with break at lower right.
1798 S-186.	Reverse identical to the last, always with a later stage of the same break.
1798 S-187.	Obverse of S-186 in later state. Reverse different. Commonest of all 1798's.

Now, the half cent overstruck on a cut-down S-173 must have been made after at least the first S-173's. It follows from the above that it was made after the 1799/8 NC1's. This must have been in the calendar year 1799, not in the spring of 1797 as you suggested above.

Half cents coined in March, 1799 might easily have remained on hand in the April 7 reference you cite, no matter what scrivener's errors may have crept into the book. The G-2's of 1797 with a still heavier obverse break must have followed.

As for the reverse break on the 1797 G-3 and G-4, I came to the same conclusion as you in the early 1950's; and tentatively, I listed the order as G-1, Gripped, G-2, G-4, G-3. But in 1951-1954, I saw several worn examples of both varieties with the break, and both varieties without the reverse break. There were very few G-3's without the reverse break; they are rare, although I would not call them extremely rare. The pieces which I examined were in various dealer

stocks: New Netherlands, Stack's, Warfield, A.E.Bebee, W.C.Douglas (Glastonbury, Conn.), S.M.Koeppel, and others. My various notes are not accessible at the moment, as I am not writing you from home; otherwise, I could try to search out at least one perfect-reverse G-3 which has appeared at auction.

The emission sequence is much more complex than either of us had suspected. If the earliest G-1 and G-2 (perfect obverse die) were made in the spring of 1797 as generally thought, then the order is G-1, Gripped, G-2 perfect dies and with partial obverse crack (planchets were mixed up among these), then a hiatus and a group of blanks of different origin, early G-3, early G-4, later G-3 and G-4, then a hiatus, then shattered die G-4's and G-3's with the latest reverse break, and at the very last, the overstrikes of the Low Head type with plain obverse and reverse breaks. It is entirely possible that the whole issue of March, 1799 consisted of overstrikes.

As for my generally taking the delivery date to be the same as the coinage date or shortly afterwards, this was normal Mint practice. It was to the advantage of the coiner to turn over newly-minted coins of any denomination to make room in his vault for new blanks and to remove a debit from his account - security and all that.

As for your splendid profession of faith that your interest in half cents will cease only when you die, the only possible comment is: Good for you! One welcomes such enthusiasm. But, as for 'continuing in your present course', please define your terms. I don't wish to sound argumentative either, but....

Respectively yours,

Walter Breen"

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

12/1/73

Dear Mr Brown:

Your reply to my letter was of great interest. Even more so was the way you answered it. It was not my intention write an article for "Penny-Wise" however when Dr Jopp called me to obtain my permission to run my letter I was amazed. When Dr Jopp sent me a copy of your answer I finally received an answer to a letter that I had written you.

Going back through my files I find that I wrote to you in December 1970. Concerning the status of your book on Half Cents. I also wrote on the same subject in July 1971. Since you didn't reply, when the 1971 ANA Convention was held in Washington, I approached you one evening and asked you about a book on Half Cents. Your reply was "I don't give a Continental damn what you do". Thus ended the interview. If this wasn't a rejection I don't know what it was. I would like to add at this point that I had a copy of my completed manuscript with me and had you exhibited anything except this hostility I would have given you the copy. If this is the way you have helped "any number of other EAC people" I wonder what their

experiences have been.

Now to the specific issue of the 1799 Coinage of Half Cents. I have re read the January 1973 article by R.W. Julian in the "Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine". This article states that there was a "delivery" on June 29, 1799 however the text assumes, while not directly stating it, that the coins delivered were struck prior. The sources of the planchets are speculated on and interestingly there is no mention of scrap large cent.

Bob Julian and I have had considerable correspondence about the sources of ~~1799~~ planchets for the coinage dated 1797. The result of this correspondence appeared in the July 1973 issue of the NSM which I am attaching a copy of.

> There is one other reason that might have delayed the half cent coinage for several weeks after the blanks were received. The 1800 half cent is of a new design, compared to earlier dates, after the one introduced on the silver dollar in late 1795. The draped bust figure, said to have been designed by Gilbert Stuart, was put on the cent in 1796 and now the half cent. A new hub had to be cut by engraver Robert Scot for this purpose.
>
> If the half cent coinage of earlier in 1800 should turn out to have been dated 1797, which must be considered a distinct possibility, then there is a ready-made excuse for the late beginning. It is unlikely, however, that we will ever know the answer to this question for an absolute certainty.
>
> A small lot of half cents was struck in November 1800, from the remaining Boulton planchets, but it was not until

Your letter in which you discuss the 1797 Cmm # 3h (Lettered edge) struck over a 1798 S-173 is of interest, however it is only a rehash of what others have written previously and adds nothing to what was known. It seems to me you have missed the entire point of what I wrote. I agree that the 1798 overstrikes could have been made in 1799 but from the information I + others have accumulated it seems more probable that they were struck in 1800. Therefore your letters statement "This must have been in the calendar year 1799, not in the spring of 1797 as you suggested above" indicates you do not understand what I have set forth many times. If this is not the case than I can only assume an unwillingness on your part to admit that there is an alternative. TO WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN POINTED IN YOUR BLURBS

The emission sequence of 1797 awaits you!! Will you please produce the 1797 Cmm #2 (C-3) without the reverse die break!! Over the last 26 years I have seen many of this variety. All of them have the break unless the coin is so worn that nothing can be made out on the reverse. If you produce one it will be a major contribution to "the riddle of emission sequence" Perhaps it should be removed for 1797 as "Emission

Impossible"

I also arrived at my Emission sequence of 1797 in the early 1950's except that I did not agree with your statement in the Coin Collectors Journal (Vol 21 #3) that placed the low Head 1797 as first. My thoughts were then as Now that this die was used last. I might also add that this was before the 1797 lettered Edge was found struck over the 1798 large Cent. I based it on the 1797 Cmn #3a (C-2) which was in the Anderson-Dupont Sale. In spite of what the Catalogue said (which I believe you wrote) I am of the opinion the Half Cent dies were impressed after the 1798 Large Cent dies.

I am happy that you noted my "splendid Profession of faith" and I will expound my "Present Course" This Course is to make available to all who are interested any information I have on Half Cents which does not violate a Personal confidence. This is quite Contrary the course that has been generally taken ~~by~~ by you in the Past. For 20 years You only fed to certain Persons What You Wanted them to know. I have Noted references to Your Past actions on the Pages of "Penny-Wise" innumerable ~~times~~ times. I feel that by making information available that I am in keeping with the

objective of the EAC

Walter, for years the Half Cent field was yours. I went along with this as I felt that you would benefit Numismatics, But what happened? In the May 1952 "Numismatist", the December 1953 "Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine", the 1955 Hellyer Ryder Catalogue, the 18th Standard Catalogue and numerous other places I read, Walter Breen is putting out a book on Half Cents. Then others got tired of waiting and I watched you squelch Stanley West, Paul Munson and Howard Hazelcorn these people ~~were~~ were not ~~and~~ "out to get you" they wanted information which you failed to disclose or if you did it was to just a few selected persons such as Jon Hanson. You never lived up to your own promises! This is why I have done what I did in publishing the Half Cent book. The book is not perfect and never will be but its a step forward ~~which~~ which you never accomplished!!

As it stands now I do not believe I need any general information you have. Your data for the most part is out of date. I do however wish you success in your current agreement with First Coinvestors Inc. Perhaps they come out a little strong in the enclosed

Proof sheet but I guess its Necessary to do this to Help sales. Now that you have moved from being "Collective" oriented to being "Investment" oriented we are in different worlds

Respectfully,
Roger Cohen

ROGER L. CONRY, JR
4720 MONTGOMERY LANE
BETHESDA, MD. 20014

Dr Warren A Lapp
480 Herkimer St.
Brooklyn N.Y. 11213

Dear Warren,

By this time I'm sure you're tired of the banter between Breen and Myself Now the less I am enclosing a copy of My reply to his reply. I am doing this so that if Walter does reply the way he did Previously you won't be surprised At this Point I do NOT want the publicity in P.W.

The last issue has produced a Number of ~~replys~~ replies to My article on Rarity and Condition Censuses. Nothing of a startling Nature

I like the layout work that was done on My behalf. Was it you or Bill Parks?

Sincerely
Roger

Box 352 : Berkeley, CA 94701

Dear Mr Cohen:

Your letter dated Dec. 1, 1973 did not reach me until shortly before Christmas, as I was out of town, and I have been so tied up since then with the annual Guidebook auction compilation as to preclude replying to anyone until yesterday. Even you. Sorry 'bout that.

Possibly it was not your intention to have your letter reprinted in PW. It seemed to me, on rereading it, that the issues there brought up were important enough to require public notice and commentary; specifically, I had hoped that various EAC members would be able to provide additional evidence of other 1797 half cents overstruck on or by cent dies--especially attributable ones. I felt this course better than having to recapitulate both your letter and my reply in detail when I would have to bring up the question in PW. (One of the Superior Goldbergs showed me Ruby's various 1797's==subsequently privately sold, contrary to their agreement with FCI--in LA, while I had your letter with me; which triggered my course of action.) Also, not to put too fine a point on it, I was and am irritated with your choice of language, and in no mood to spend a lot of time placating you.

Wherever you sent me any letters in 1970 or '71, they failed to reach me. We learned that much of our mail sent to Swaim Ave. in Staten Island failed to get there--including some cheques and some bills, to embarrassment of more than one party; Unfortunately, mail from Staten Island also sometimes failed to reach its destination, which can be damnably inconvenient when the piece of mail is a payment on an overdue phone bill!

I do not recall the wording of your question on either your or my book on half cents at the Washington ANA Convention, but I do recall I had been badgered by a variety of people at that same convention about why I didn't GET OFF MY ASS AND PUBLISH or why I hadn't done so already or.... And at the time you were the last straw. I am sorry if my accumulated irritation from being poked in the same sore spot yet again and again and AGAIN and A*G*A*I*N showed in your presence. You say you "got tired waiting to see my book." Don't you think I got at least equally tired of badgering John Ford about it ever since 1956? The book was up to date then, but he kept trying--he said --to get others to help subsidize its publication; there was a monstrous fuss about the plates (which were satisfactory enough to me) and a still worse fuss about his wanting me to rewrite it from scratch, all 350 pp., in my spare time, free despite its interference with professional assignments. Did you seriously think I could afford the $7,000 quoted by one publisher to have it vanity pressed? Alternatively, did you seriously think I should have made fair copies of not only the ms. but the several hundred pages of additional notes so that you or someone else could publish them all on their own? I have had that ego-trip scene with at least three other people (the latest one is still in EAC) over the years, and it is not worth the effort or the cost to me. I had no intention to antagonize you, but--because of the way the other questions had been framed--I was in no mood to try to save $7,000+ to publish, or to spend the year or two rewriting it to update it, especially if then I would have to turn the result over to someone else who expected to publish it under his own name. Hence, then as now,"I don't give a continental damn what you do." I was out of the picture on publishing or contributing on the scale required. I was, and am, sick and tired to death of being badgered about it.

The help I have extended to other EAC people has had to do with specific questions which could be answered fairly briefly. I was not, and with my FCI contract I am not, in a position to answer questions which would require copying out hundreds of pages of notes which nobody in the world could read as is, or submitting publishable mss. Just yesterday I had to turn down a request from another EAC member who wants to publish a complete roster of proof-only half-cents by complete pedigree for each of the 300+ specimens.

Obviously this man had no idea of the amount of work such a request would require--even aside from its being a violation of my contract. Even if my pedigree ledger were completely updated (which would take me several months to complete), the sheer bulk of such a project rules out simply giving him it. Do you seriously contend I should have done so?

You speak of favoritism and specially mention Jon Hanson. This proves your dossier on me is based on insufficient facts: "contrary to the course that has been generally [?] taken by you in the Past. For 20 years you only fed to certain persons what you wanted them to know. I have Noticed [?] refereced to your Past actions on the pages of "Penny-Wise" innumerable [?] times..." As for Jon Hanson, I have known him since he was a child. I trained him; he shared information with me, and when he grew up he helped me out of grave difficulties. Are you saying I should have done the same with all comers? Life and time are too short. You claim that I "squelched" Paul Munson and Dr. West. I have no idea what I could have said which might have given either of these good people any such idea as you cited (or is it your own idea?). I haven't heard from Dr. West since Jan. 1965, when he was discussing edge lettering (claiming that LL G5's of 1794 have the 1795 edge lettering, which I have been unable to confirm from specimens seen to date); I thought my reply was courteous, though conceivably he might have misunderstood it. I haven't seen Paul Munson in years, but I thought we were still friends, and I was under the impression that he knew I was a lousy correspondent. I would be glad to hear from either of them again. As for Howard Hazelcorn, that is a sore point, especially since he copied others' material and published it under his own name, among other things I will not discuss here. He has presumably grown up since, but at the moment I see no reason to invite him to copy anything else. Do you think I should have? I have already suffered at least three times from people who 'borrowed' material from me with the aim of publishing it on their own under their own names. One of these people is still in EAC. Do you contend I should encourage these ventures? Let them do their own research; I had to. I will answer specific questions, but I am not here to make others' ego trips easy.

As for "what I have done over the years", as you contend: Unpaid I published for years in The Numismatist. (Since Dec. 1950.) When I had to raise money to survive in college, I began writing for the Num. Scrapbook, continuing til it moved to Sidney, Ohio; and in Whitman Num. Journal until it folded. Since then I've done likewise in Num. News Weekly and Coins and Coinage when I could persuade editors that my material was suitable. Colonial Newsletter and PW have had my contributions when I could afford the spare time; my very full professional schedule seldom permits me to do unpaid amateur writing. I have tried this course rather than encouraging extensive correspondence to avoid duplication of effort. I have tried to discourage extensive correspondence because I learned in 1964 that it expands into a fulltime task--evidently you haven't had this problem. In 1964 I had to answer over 200 letters per week, without a secretary. The situation became critical when upwards of thirty people per week sent me coins to authenticate, wanting them back registered airmail the same day, without even--more than 2/3 the time--reimbursing me for postage, out-of-pocket lab fees, or the standard 5% authentication fee. Letters came to me addressed "Walter Breen, Berkeley, Calif." without other address and were delivered apparently as fast as those with the box number. Within a year (summer 1965) I succumbed to illness and the rest is my history. Do you want this to build up again the same way?

~~So you got tired of waiting to see my book on half cents. Don't you think I got at least equally tired of badgering John Ford about it ever since it was completed in 1956? He had originally led me to believe he could find a publisher, but weeks stretched into months and years. First there was the~~

My original conclusion placing the 1797 Low Head die first was based on the evidence of punches. The pointed 9 punch was used on the 16-star dimes, which are known to have preceded the 13-star type; first deliveries of dimes, Feb. 28 and March 21, meant that the die and therefore the punch must have been in existence still earlier. The 13-star dimes, using the knobbed 9 punch found on G-3 & 4 half-cent obvs., were delivered between May 26 and Aug. 20, 1797, after which the Mint closed for the yellow fever epidemic, not to reopen until November. This strongly suggests that the Low Head die was made first. Until the overstrikes showed up, I did not have any reason to believe that the coins were made in later years. An obvious opportunity for briefly using any old dies which could be pressed into service was the 1798 and 1799 emergency issues (see my monograph on Half Eagles 1798-98, p. 10): Nov. 9, 1797--end of year; Nov. 1--Dec. 31, 1798; same period of 1799. My contention was that the Low Head dies were used on several occasions, and that the year 1799 seems more likely than 1800 because of the known deliveries of that year; evidently we have been reading different Julian articles. (July 1973, p. 598 among others.) Further: if the "Dupont" and some other half cents were overstruck by cent dies, that provides a terminus. Cf. the lettered edge coin in Congress Hall, Philadelphia, ex Frank H. Stewart, overstruck by S-115; cf. also Brobston-Merkin 3/69:597. If you say all these coins were made in 1800, you must argue that S-115, 160-1, 164, 173, 1799/8, 186-7 were all made in 1800, later than the half-cents. The question seems moot, though a sensible idea might be that the half cents delivered in 1799 were made during the winter Nov.-Dec 1798 but not then delivered. I don't have Julian's articles at hand with the exception cited, worse luck.

I am not "investment-oriented" in the sense you speak of. I write auction catalogues--the Pine Tree GENA sales, and (by arrangement between the Superior Goldbergs and FCI) the Gilhousen silver and Ruby catalogues. FCI hired me as a watchdog, but they allow me to do my own barking; they do not require me to approach coins as investments irrespective of their numismatic nature. FCI has been very good to me; the terms of my contract are far more generous than those of any previous dealer employers. I have personal loyalty for both Lester Merkin and Charles Wormser, but they have not been in recent years in a position to use my services fulltime. Numismatics for me must be a source of income, without my being a dealer--a problem you are evidently fortunate enough not to share.

I take it by the tone of your letter that you regard enmity as permanent. I do not wish it, but the next move is up to you. I have tried to be honest therein despite the sizable buildup of adrenalin which your verbal abuse has stimulated. I do not feel that I owe you any more apologies than those you have already had from me herein; but then, misunderstandings so profound as those between us are likely to result not from what injury either of us may have fancied he has received from the other, but merely from temperamental incompatibility. Short of an encounter group I do not know what I could do now to remedy anything. The next move is still up to you. If you wish to shake hands and end it there at the next EAC meeting, fine. If you wish to retain your evil opinions of me, I am sure I can cope, without reciprocating.

Respectively yours,

Walter Breen

Walter Breen